



Community Chaplain

East Preston / Reservoir

Peter Kutschker

Chaplain's Notes September 2001

Hi everyone!

Well, what a month it has been. I, like many of you I presume, was deeply affected by the events of September 11 in America. I couldn't help but be moved to tears because of all the anguish and pain I heard beamed over the radio, and to be honest with you, it took me a number of days to recover emotionally.

Others I met have reacted differently. Attitudes have ranged from anger & vengeance towards the perpetrators, to a deep compassion for the victims & their families, to even a "well they had it coming" viewpoint. One person I met was in shock over the events, not knowing what to believe anymore with all such evil going on, and another said they had even lost their faith in God.

This last response poses some real questions. Is God really to blame? Where is God in times like this? Why does He allow such evil to occur? Perhaps He doesn't even really exist??

Allow me to begin to address these questions.

First and foremost, the Bible shows us that God is amongst other things the all great, all good, holy, infinite-personal majestic creator & ruler of all, whose primary disposition is one of kindness, love, & generosity toward all of His creation. It is absolutely impossible for God to do evil or even to think of doing evil. "God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all", the Bible says.

Secondly, the Bible teaches that we humans are made in the image or style of this majestic God with a free will and were intended to live fruitful lives in harmony with Him, each other, and creation. We have the ability to make decisions and to choose to accept or reject God's moral will for our lives. This ability to choose is the essence of love: making a choice to be faithful.

But, as we all know, there is evil in the world. Real moral evil. And it is everywhere - on our television screens, in our neighbourhoods, in our own hearts. And that is because all of us as humans, without exception, have at some point, even many points, rejected what we know to be true and right, and have chosen another path. Our relationships with God, each other, and the rest of creation are thus in a mess - subject to death in every sense of the word. That's what sin is and does.

So allow me to say that what we saw on television, heard on the radio, and read in the papers this month, is just one graphic example of the evil prevalent everywhere: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance, folly, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, selfish ambition, drunkenness ... All these evils and more stem from our hearts.

So is God to blame? Certainly not!

But, you may ask me, if God is really God, shouldn't He be do something about all this evil in the world?

My friends, God has been doing something all along! The reason why I'm a chaplain is because I understand to some degree what God is up to, and I am excited about it! Stay tuned for what I will write in the next months to find out.

(But if you can't wait till then, give me a call - I'd love to talk with you about this).

Yours sincerely,



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A ministry supported by Regent Baptist Church,
West Evangelical Christian Church, and LinC Northern Region