

## PS's Ponderings



My heart broke as I watched events unfold at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida. Terrified and injured students streamed from the building. Over the next few hours the death toll continued to climb. 17 students and adults lost their lives to senseless violence with as many more wounded. They didn't die on the battlefield or in a car crash, they were killed by a former student and classmate simply due to hate.

All I could think about that day was the reality that teenagers who had their entire lives before them would never get the chance to fulfill dreams, achieve goals, and live the adventure of life. I thought of the potential that would never be realized. I thought of the devastation those families were experiencing, and tried to imagine how I would be able to cope if it had happened to me. How God's heart must break over the broken hate that exists in our world today.

In 2018 there have been 18 school shootings in our country in just the first 45 days, and an institution that has been so key to raising generations of Americans is no longer a safe place. Schools are implementing lockdown procedures, developing security guidelines and conducting seminars on surviving an active shooter scenario.

I don't know what the answer is. More gun control, police officers in every school, armed security? Perhaps the forced absence of God from our school systems, and the lack of a biblical moral code, has contributed to a devaluation of humanity as our children are taught they are simply the sum of biological evolution; instead of children of the High King of Heaven.

One thing is certain, we need the presence of God desperately! As a nation, we need to repent for our rebellion and turn back to Him. As Christians we should cry out to God seeking his forgiveness for our country.

2 Chronicles 7:14 says... *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

Lord God Almighty, Forgive our nation for its arrogance and pride. Forgive us for pushing You out. Be merciful to us and bring healing to our land. We need You. Strengthen those who seek to follow You and give those who lead us wisdom. Amen.