

This shooting is similar to others yet differs in the type of firearms used as his two weapons were common weapons almost everyone in the south has in their homes. Like many shootings, the guns were legally obtained by another person and came into possession of someone intent on doing harm. Another difference in this incident is the suspect gave very few clues about carrying out something on such a mass scale. Reports of "bullying" may include what seems like normal coaching occurring in high school football and one victim who was not interested in his pursuit to date her. This seems minor (we don't have all the details of course) compared to past incidents and suspects; so what is going on with all these shootings? After all you will hear the media report there have been 22 shootings this school year. Other sources remind us only 9 shootings since 1996 have killed more than 4 people and are considered mass shootings. Since Columbine, approximately 200 public school students have been shot to death while school was in session. Of the 22 shootings reported this year several were on college campuses in college owned apartments or parking lots (this is an issue but one of a different nature)... Of those at K-12 schools there were 12, one shooting was with a BB gun, one during a school track meet in the parking lot, 3 were deemed accidental, one was between adults fighting in a school parking lot, 3 seem to be a suspect specifically targeting an individual or student; which leaves 3 shootings of this magnitude in our 98,817 public schools in the United States. I am not trying to downplay any of these tragedies, one shooting of any kind is too many; they are sinful and tragic events, however we must consider all the facts and our culture. After all, we are not outraged at traffic fatalities or high school sports, or recreational swimming, or eating. The claims being made in the media and by those who have witnessed or been directly affected by the violence are not insincere but are perhaps not even grounded in all the facts we know.

Statements like "every child in America fears whether each day at school will be their last." Consider this: an American's lifetime odds of dying in a mass shooting committed in any location is 1 in 11,125; of dying in a car accident is 1 and 491; of drowning is 1 in 1,133; and of choking on food is 1 in 3,461. From 1996 – 2011 (there are 6 additional years of data I did not have access to) 58 high school kids have died directly from playing American Football and an additional 118 indirectly from conditions or injuries received while playing football. Again, this is not to diminish school violence in any fashion but to bring into perspective the dangers of life. Living is not without risk.

OVER 

Our children are exponentially more likely to be killed in an automobile accident on the way to school, and at greater risk of death by gunshot when not in school, than to die in a mass school shooting. That's factually true. But as one writer and analyst says, "it doesn't feel true when these things happen, especially when these horrible events receive wall-to-wall media coverage. Across the population of public school children in the United States, fear of this extraordinarily rare risk is almost certainly doing far more overall harm than have the shootings themselves, horrendous as they are."

Malcolm Gladwell points to an interesting but less comforting analysis supported by Mark Granovetter: "he argues that each mass shooting lowers the threshold for the next... with the Columbine shooting in many ways the key triggering event. He believes it is a mistake to look at each incident independently. It is a riot of sorts, which is a social process, in which people did things in reaction to and in combination with those around them. Social processes are driven by our thresholds—which he defined as the number of people who need to be doing some activity before we agree to join them. In the elegant theoretical model Granovetter proposed, riots were started by people with a threshold of zero—instigators willing to throw a rock through a window at the slightest provocation. Then comes the person who will throw a rock if someone else goes first. He has a threshold of one. Next in is the person with the threshold of two. His qualms are overcome when he sees the instigator and the instigator's accomplice. Next to him is someone with a threshold of three, who would never break windows and loot stores unless there were three people right in front of him who were already doing that—and so on up to the hundredth person, a righteous upstanding citizen who nonetheless could set his beliefs aside and grab a camera from the broken window of the electronics store if everyone around him was grabbing cameras from the electronics store. Columbine changed the cultural script, they made home movies, wrote manifestos and many shooters since reference the suspects in this event and several other thwarted attempts as well. The "low threshold" shooters are motivated by "powerful grievances," but as the riot spreads, the justifications are often manufactured, and the shooters more and more "normal." Young men no longer need to be deeply disturbed to contemplate horrific acts, just a moment of poor decision.

We can no longer be content with status quo life and church, how much more we must be involved as Christians bringing the only real hope to a hurting society. The conclusion is the more these events are glamorized and normalized the more they will become more common. As Christians we must normalize sacrifice, peace, prayer, extravagant love for our neighbors. Trying to escape or protect ourselves from our fears prove to provide more fear, more apprehension... If living is not without risk then live for the gospel! "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain," so whether I live or die I must be Christ's!



MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018

Morning Worship Service

629 *God of Our Fathers*

406 *Solid Rock*

Scripture Reading & Prayer

Our God Is Greater

Break Every Chain



275 *I Surrender All*

Evening Worship Service

413 *Faith Is the Victory*

Invocation & Welcome

346 *He's Got the Whole World*

in His Hands

405 *Have Faith in God*

Worship Through Testimonies & Prayer

54 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

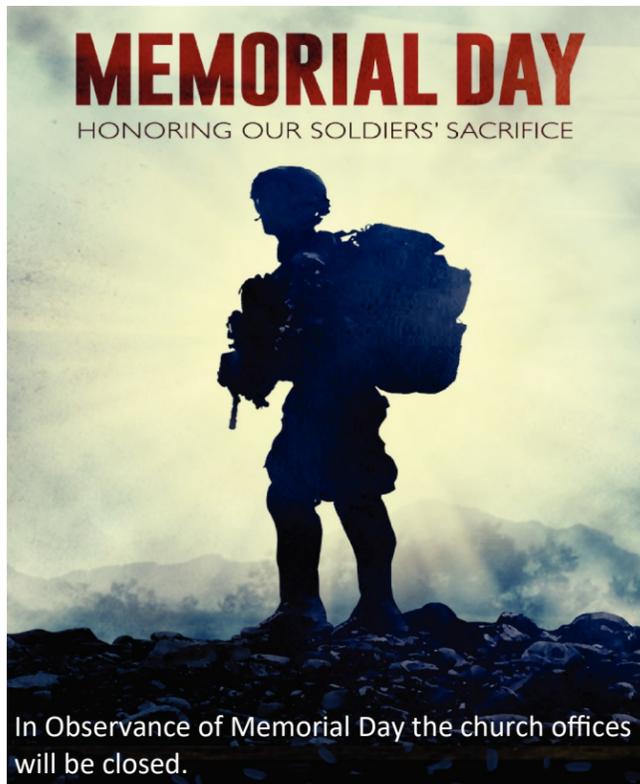
RESTORING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN MAN -

Hebrews 11

280 *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*

Once again one the biggest news stories in recent days is another shooting in a public school in the US. This time in Santa Fe, Texas, a town between Houston and Galveston. In this incident, as reports in media outlets have stated, it seems clear there were some people whom he liked and some whom he did not like as "he spared those he liked so his story would be told". The shooter was possibly bullied which in our day and time could mean a whole host of things. Of course some details of his story remains untold because of the pending trial and need to collect evidence. What is clear is this was a premeditated act and he was admittedly "selective" of his victims. A few things to consider about the coverage of these tragedies: these incidents attract viewers, get ratings, and sell products. Remember no television show, news included, would stay on the air without the commercials or the brands contained within them paying for the exposure. The media's widespread coverage and attention given to these events give people seeking attention a possible cause to act (I will say more about this in a moment...) and those who watch something to feed their fears (more about this also).

In our country we cannot deny the access to firearms for better or for worse is far greater than any other country and this brings with it a unique set of challenges we should consider. There is a human need for these tragedies to have more to them than just a single person acting irrationally. It makes us feel better as humans if there was some grand conspiracy or deeper reason; this is easier for a secular worldview to swallow rather than admit this is the way of a world in which only the strongest survive. Each of these events also point to the inability of some people to deal with the pain and difficulties of life, the search for answers and the need for love and acceptance. In every one of these tragedies we see the need for the gospel and this should be our primary focus as Christians. There are probably many other factors contributing to these occurrences like media violence, TV alone subjects the average child to at least 14,000 sexual references and at least 14,000 acts of violence each year. Most video games contain some violence and many popular games are designed as first person shooter games depicting graphic violence and war scenes. The feminization of culture, the confusion of gender roles, the lack of male leadership in homes and in the lives of children, pornography, inappropriate discipline, mental illness, learning disabilities, medical conditions (including medication), and the increasing role and accessibility of technology are but some of the factors which may affect a child negatively and contribute to further immoral and illegal actions.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27		29	30	31	1	2
3 Legacy Builders Appreciation Luncheon	4 7pm Deacon's Meeting	5 House & Grounds Meeting 7PM	6	7	8	9
10 Passion Camp Fundraiser	11 6pm Stewardship Meeting	←		→	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Rehearsal for Youth - Led Service	28	29	30



TUPOS

STUDENT MINISTRIES

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES...

June 10th
Taco Salad Lunch & Cake Auction

LET THEM EAT
youth cake auction fundraiser
CAKE

All proceeds go to pay for meals for those attending Passion Camp.

Happy Birthday!

Today
Jennifer Shackelford
May 29
Gayle Graham

Sunday Services

Nursery.....	23
Children's Church.....	12
Morning Worship...	113
Evening Worship.....	

Wednesday Services.

Adult Bible Study.....	7
Students.....	
GA/RA (elementary).....	31
Mission Friends (pre-s).....	4
Nursery.....	2
Women's Study.....	
Leaders.....	7
Total.....	51

Giving Record

Budget Needs/Week	\$7,056.00
Tithes & Offering	\$5,099.00
Difference.....	(-\$1957.00)
Designated.....	\$768.99

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Rev. Christopher M. Bishop - Senior Pastor - 781-5572 (Cell)
Rev. Marc Pollard - Student Pastor - (318) 286-5032 (Cell)
Rev. David E. Radford - Minister of Music - 781-9675 (Cell)

COUNTING COMMITTEE - MAY 2018
Meg Moore, Kay Crews, Vernon Benbow

WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Sundays

9:30 A.M. Media Center Open
9:45 A.M. Sunday School - Education Building
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service - Sanctuary
Kids' Church K-5
6:30 P.M. Evening Worship - Sanctuary

Wednesday

5:00 P.M. Women's Bible Study
6:30 P.M. Wednesday Night Live (TUPOS)
G.A.'s, R.A.'s, Mission Friends - Kids Bldg.
Women's Bible Study
Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study - Ed. Bldg.

USHERS OF THE WEEK

Winston Smith
Kole Robertson
Matt Chapman
Binky Graham

DEACON OF THE WEEK

May 27-June 2
David Moore 781-1565
June 3-9
Marlon Pendergrass 781-9232



If you're visiting us for the first time, we invite you to fill out a visitor packet in the pew in front of you and drop it in the offering plate.
We're so glad you're here!



Mandatory meeting TODAY for those going to Passion Camp.
Please meet Marc at the front of the sanctuary immediately following the service. It will only take a few minutes.