

what distinguishes this day from others? of course, those of us who are old enough, immediately have our minds go to the day president kennedy was assassinated. i think everybody remembers where they were when the news was announced. i know i was in the middle of typing class as it came over the loud speaker.

just last night another tragedy struck a city in wisconsin, as bystanders innocently enjoyed a christmas parade. a vehicle plowed into a crowd killing several and injuring many others. a few years ago we all remember the news being full of how an apartment building in florida collapsed, killing many.

Jesus also mentioned a tragedy at the tower in siloam in luke 13. "or those eighteen who died when the tower in siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in jerusalem? I tell you, no! but unless you repent, you too will all perish". luke 13:4-5

life is full of seemingly random acts. we all know this world is full of suffering and hardship. after all, it is now under the rule of the evil one. (perhaps just a small taste of the next domain he is set to rule in.)

in the words of c.s. lewis, "free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. a world of automata – of creatures that work like machines – would hardly be worth creating."

our Lord also endured the extreme suffering this world

has to offer. it was not His to suffer. He bore it when He took on a body of flesh that He might also share in all we knew. He overcame the body of flesh that we could not. "the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." john 14:30

i guess the point i am trying to make is this. none of us know the time that is allotted to us or the random acts that may befall us. my brother was taken at a very young age while i lived to see my parents depart. if this be the case, what manner of life should we be living. like Jesus said, "unless you repent, you too will all perish". "as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." heb 9:27

so what is end of all this suffering and pain? "for the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God." rom 6:10

that is up to each of us individually. "choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." jos 24:15 it all comes down to that "free will" He allows us to have. but also remember those "random acts" and that everyone's time has an expiration date.

are you now living to sin or living to God? "o wretched man that i am! who will deliver me from this body of death?" rom 7:24 "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." rom 8:1

are you truly sorry for your evil deeds (sin)? or are you just sorry you got caught? we all get caught by

God. "and there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." heb 4:13

usually every one has a dread of death, but i would not leave you hopeless. the good news is that He has conquered sin and death. even now we may begin to live that amazing life if it is lived to God. when we surrender it all to Him, we will begin to experience that amazing life "He lives to God". it is "joy unspeakable an full of glory." 1 pet 1:8 "o death, where is thy sting? o grave, where is thy victory?" 1 cor 15:55 remember. there are worse things than dying.

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