

# What Next?

By: Clay Barnes

What next? We often hear or voice that comment when something surprising happens. Well, what is next? We are seeing School shootings, work-place shootings and the like shows the cold hearted acts that some people are capable of. I think that our Nation is leaving God out of it's plans completely. We have forgotten the God of the Bible. We have taken prayer and the Bible out of our Schools, we have legalized abortion. We have even gone to the point of legalizing same sex marriages in some states! I am reminded of Psalm 9: 17. *The wicked shall be turned into hell. And all the nations that forget God.* It's very discouraging when all we see is

people who are bent on going out of their way to be disobedient to God, and think nothing of the ramifications that come along with it! Consider Job 8: 11-14. *Can the papyrus grow up without a marsh? Can the reeds flourish without water? While it is yet green and not cut down, It withers before any other plant. So are the paths of all who forget God; And the hope of the hypocrite shall perish, Whose confidence shall be cut off, And whose trust is a spider's web.* I think the lesson here is that every living thing needs growth from the thing that was made to feed it. The reeds need water, and man needs the Lord. We were made to be in the Lord since he created us (Genesis 3: 26-28). God designed us for good works. Matthew 5:16 says *“Let your light so shine before*

*men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* I think it is agreed upon by all that we live in a very dark sin filled world. It is imperative that we let our lights shine by our good works. Consider 1 Peter 2: 12. *“Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.”* It's sad to see so many people being evil when they could just as easily have been productive Christians to help turn around this generation that makes us so discouraging. Look at what Matthew has to say in Matthew 12: 34. *“Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the*

*mouth speaks.”* We can't pretend to be good when evil dwells in our heart. That would be like trying to be a Christian when all we can think about is doing bad deeds. Bad, rotten fruit is just that. Bad, rotten fruit. You can't reverse that, but we can reverse our evil Satan filled hearts with the help of God. Consider Hebrews 10: 22-23. *“22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.* Only True humble contrite hearts will be accepted by the Lord. Because they reveal who we really are. Proverbs 27: 19 perfectly explains this. *As in water face reflects face, So a man's*

*heart reveals the man.* We may disguise our real heart from men for a time, but we fool ourselves if we think we can disguise it from the Lord. What's next? Well, we have to stop trusting in our own heart. Again, Proverbs has more wisdom in Proverbs 28: 26. *He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.* So in what will you trust? If we keep trusting in our selves and exercising in Satan's foolish ways then we will see more school shootings, work-place violence and all of the other things which goes with Un-Godliness. But, if we have pure, contrite hearts then we will not only see our families turn to God, but the nation we live in as well. It's up to you, and it's up to me. We will determine what's next.

