

Subject: sermon September 14

September 14 (Memorial Service at Terrorist attacks)  
Psalm 46, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, John 14:27

First of all, I want you to know that this is the first time I've ever held a worship service because it was scheduled by the President of the United States. We had planned to have our doors open for prayer and to ring our bells. However, the president scheduled it, the people wanted it, and we are here to remember and to pray

And, you know why we are here. By now we've all seen the pictures of planes flying purposely into buildings and destroying buildings, killing people and causing terror. How do we as a people, as Christians, respond to such acts? I want to share with you 3 thoughts found in today's readings.

First, contrary to much popular opinion, there is evil in the world, and we saw it on Tuesday. When innocent men and women and children are murdered that is violently against the will of God. God calls us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. God is a God of justice and he will see justice and judgement enacted upon such evil.

But, because others perform great acts of evil and violence does not mean there is no sin in us. Evil in another person does not allow for us as individuals to act in an evil way.

God does however give nations the right and authority to work peace by protecting their people. Look at 1 Timothy 2. And, God says that vengeance belongs to HIM.

Secondly there is one solution for evil, and that is found, perhaps surprisingly in a time like this, in Jesus, God's son. God sent his son into the world to receive the hatred, the violence, and the death it gave. And in dying on the cross Jesus offers for sin and for evil. . . . forgiveness. God calls all people to his love and his sacrifice through faith, and takes away evil when they believe in Him. That is his solution for evil. We receive it through faith.

Third and finally, God works peace.

The most powerful peace is that between God and His people. We find peace because He is indeed God and in control when mountains fall into the depth of the sea, and when our world seems to be falling apart..

We find peace because in our failures, God is loving and forgiving.

In an imperfect way, when God's power works in the lives of His people, that peace will also show in this life. God plans to give you peace, so you can share His peace with others.

So, you've seen the pictures. How do we respond?

I pray that today you may be led to silence and BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD.

I pray that today you may be led to pray for your leaders.

I pray that today you may find the eternal peace that comes through the love and forgiveness of God.