

Perhaps we can return America to a “devotion” of fearing God.

**One may ask, “What is the fear of God!”**

Strong’s Concordance defines the word as meaning “fear,” but also “reverence.”

**Oh yes**, when one realizes they will answer to a Holy God, who is our Creator, having expectations of us and will one day be our Judge, they should be afraid. I liken this fear to a child for his parents when he says, “I can’t do that... `my parents will *kill* me!”

But, when they **come to the knowledge** that our Creator loved us so much, that He paid the eternal penalty for our sins and wrongdoings, in the person of Jesus Christ, they can move from fear to respect for God.

**How about you?** Do you fear God? Have you ever realized that you haven’t lived up to His expectations for you? And that you’re a sinner (me too!), see Rom.3:23.

**Have you ever realized**

**there is a penalty for our sin?**

It takes place with us paying for our sins, separated from the Holy, Loving God, in a place called Hell. See Rom. 6:23; and Rev.21:8. And this **Loving God** does not want us there in that place of torment. So, He **paid our penalty for us**. See Rom. 5:8; and Eph.2:7

**You see**, God Himself paid our sin penalty for us. He died for our sins at Calvary. This is a wonderful and amazing thing. He was buried and arose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, proving He could keep His promise of eternal life.

**Our part** is to, by faith, **accept His gift** of eternal life to us. See Rom.6:23; Gal. 2:16 and 1Cor.15:1-4 in your Bible.

**Do you** fear God enough to accept his gift to you? **Having done that**, do you respect Him enough to live for Him tomorrow? Gal. 2:20

**Check it out! Download a Bible App for your phone (KJV) and read the verses!**

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## Why so much



## Gun Violence?

**Ps.119:38** *Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.*

**There I was, watching another terrible school shooting while my thoughts ran the gamut of emotions.**

As I was watching the news that morning, I felt sorrow for the families, for the school, and for the fact that this was happening again in America.

I not only felt remorse but anger. Anger at the Democrats for making political hay out of the tragedy while the smoke was still in the air. And anger at the shooter, with bewilderment,

that the suspect was just 18 years old.

As I watched the tragic shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida unfold, the gun debate was already heating up. The Democrats were calling for gun control and a ban of the weapon used, while the Republicans were blaming the shooter and security at the school.

**My heart was crying out, WHY!**

As Americans, we are the only country with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. Many of us understand and recognize the value of that amendment, cherishing it. But, any honest person must be as bewildered as I am when they consider: all these school shootings, drive-by killings, and all the murder and mayhem involving a gun. One very natural reaction is to blame the gun. Others counter by blaming the person.

I thought **other countries** that do not have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment do not have this problem of mass murder in the

populace as we do. At least, not on the scale we do. So, in a way, one could say gun control works!

But **on deeper thought**, one realizes that America has had the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment since its birth, but the gun violence problem is relatively new. We went over 200 years or more without these kinds of issues. What changed?

This morning I came across Ps.119:38, which says, "*Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear*", **and the Lord impressed me with the answer:** There is no fear of God in America any longer, there is no governing moral force in America any longer, and America is no longer "devoted to the fear of God", as it once was.

One reason the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment worked so well for so long is that America once feared God. There now seems to be no self-rule or self-control, which is motivated by the fear of a Holy God as our Judge.

For crying out loud, in many cases, there is not even a basic knowledge of God or an afterlife. God has been removed from our schools and our history, our courts, and political halls. We have taken the Bible and prayer out of our schools, and off our fields of play. We have mocked and ridiculed it. Our moral compass is lost. And I'm afraid unless we get it back, **we will lose our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment!**

That will be a shame as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment was given to protect from tyranny. William Blackstone said, "*Free men have arms; slaves do not.*"

So, how do we preserve our freedom and get our moral compass back? **Ps.119:38** says devotion to the fear of God happens by establishing God's Word is in the people. **Let us begin** by including it in our own lives, and then reintroducing it into the lives of our children and those around us. For those of us who have the ear of others, may we again promote the fear of God!