

The Old Paths

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“Lessons From Virginia Tech”

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This is the most peaceful, tranquil and safe environment. But this shows that there is nowhere that you're safe from tragedy or this type of senseless violence. It's devastating.” Those words came from VT Head Basketball Coach Seth Greenburg, regarding Monday's campus massacre. While sights and sounds of that horrible day are ever before us, let us pause and learn a couple of lessons from Virginia Tech.

First of all, sin changes things. Think how many lives have been altered since Monday, April 16, due to one man's sin of murder. All those of the Hokie family, President Bush, Virginia's Governor, even us, haven't we stopped and watched or read more news lately? How many parents now will consider on-line degrees or smaller colleges for their children as opposed to sending them off to major universities? So much has changed! But more than these, sin changes the soul's condition and our relationship to Jehovah. Sin destroys the soul (Rom. 6:23) and separates the sinner from God (Isa. 59:1-2).

Secondly, we learn that death often comes as a surprise. How many of the 32 victims do you really think expected to die that morning? They were likely concerned with graduate work, degrees, upcoming finals, etc. They were in peaceful, Blacksburg,

VA, a friendly community. They were at school, hardly a place where you expect to breathe your last! How many of us really think we know when we will die? Are you prepared for death? Death is certain (Heb. 9:27). Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people (Jn. 14:1-3). As was told King Hezekiah, “set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live” (II Kings 20:1). To prepare, one must hear (Rom. 10:17), believe (Jn. 8:24), repent (Acts 17:30), confess (Rom. 10:10), be baptized (Acts 2:38), and live faithfully (Rev. 2:10).

This past Monday, we learned of the deadliest shooting in U.S. history. An extremely tragic event. And while we and millions others would like to go back and change it, we can't. But we can learn from it. As we grieve, think, and pray - as we hold our loved ones tighter in times like this - let us not forget . . . sin changes things and death often comes as a surprise.

Editor's Note:

In connection with this, let us remember Alan and Merry-Gayle Moeller from Blacksburg, VA, because they not only lost friends during this shooting, but also have their own injuries to consider after the car wreck they had on Monday. Solomon spoke the truth when he said, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1). May we ever be mindful of our need for being prepared for eternity! (II Cor. 6:2)

The Suddenly Uncomfortable Cheerleading Uniform

J.S. Smith, Ft. Worth, TX
(This article first ran in 2006. -JJ)

Parents in Southern California are understandably disturbed that videos of their teenage daughters cavorting about in sexually tantalizing clothing have been showing up for sale on Internet auction site eBay.

That's not exactly how the news media begin their reports on the story, but still it is a pretty fair assessment of the situation.

Some lecherous entrepreneur carries his camcorder to high school football games, blending in among the band parents and middle-aged dads reliving their own gridiron glory vicariously through their sons on the field. Lecherous Entrepreneur, however, is not taping the trombonist or right tackle; surreptitiously, his lens is zoomed in on the young girls in miniskirts and belly-baring tops as they perform gymnastic and dance routines which expose more and more of their desirable flesh.

Immoral? Yes. Unjustified? Of course. Exploitative? Obviously. Criminal? Apparently not.

Prosecutors in Southern California would just love to go after this guy, even more forcefully than the investigative reporters who tracked him down through his Post Office box. The trouble is that there is nothing illegal about videotaping people in public places. He was not peeping through their bathroom

windows or hanging out around the locker room. Every detail captured on his camcorder was performed in public before thousands of people.

One family sat down with their cheerleader daughter, an intrepid reporter, and a copy of the \$70 videotape. "You can feel the discomfort in the room and see it on their faces because for the first time they're seeing their child through the eyes of someone else," reports Ana Garcia. Lecherous Entrepreneur has trained his trusty lens "on their mouths, breasts and crotches, freezing shots under their skirts, during kicks or splits."

But there is a short-circuit in everybody's indignation. Lecherous Entrepreneur did not manipulate the video to make it appear these girls were doing things they were not. He did not digitally place their pure heads upon the borrowed bodies of Vegas Showgirls. These young girls performed every suggestive motion and exposed every inch of flesh caught on tape. Mom says, "I don't want that out on the Internet. This is really upsetting to see." Granted the video brings the viewer up close and more personal with her daughter than a spectator would ordinarily get at the football stadium, but, again, the sights that sicken her are on display every Friday night for any pervert with binoculars or a front row seat. And if \$70 a pop can be made, apparently legally, on this kind of smut, rest assured that Lecherous Entrepreneur will have company this fall ... at a football field near you.

The moral issue with cheerleading is not the leading of cheers, and in its infancy, cheerleading was a rather wholesome

celebration of school spirit and youthful beauty. It has evolved through the incorporation of gymnastics and racy costumes to something that is the epitome of lewdness. The uniform skirt has steadily crept up the leg to the point that it affords little coverage to begin with and practically none when the cheerleader moves even slightly, let alone when she performs flips, splits and tosses. The uniform top has likewise shrunk to the point that it exposes the belly and accentuates the chest, much to the delight of Lecherous Entrepreneur and his satisfied customers. Cheerleading has become something of a misnomer. Few spectators are actually willing to be led in cheers by the young women who spend most of their time performing dangerous gymnastics or often racy dance routines.

In spite of its roots in school spirit and extracurricular participation, modern cheerleading traffics in immodesty and lewdness which cannot be sustained under the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit's desire is that women *"adorn themselves in modest apparel ... which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works,"* having long ago warned that a *"lovely woman who lacks discretion"* is like a swine with a gold ring in its

snout (I Tim. 2:8-10, Prov. 11:22). She should be defined instead by the hidden person of her heart, having the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit (I Pet. 3:4).

The indecent bodily movements of the modern cheerleader suggest sexual invitation to the young, weak or perverted heart (Gal. 5:19-21). The private and more alluring parts of her anatomy are exposed, emphasized and animated in an enticing fashion which only a fool would deny.

After seeing herself on the eBay video, one cheerleader complained, "I won't feel comfortable going out on the football field with my uniform again. You have no clue who is watching you and for what reason." True -- but that is the case with or without a camcorder in the hands of Lecherous Entrepreneur. Is this what it takes to get through to the people -- many of them Christians -- who condone or encourage cheerleading today?

Editor's Note:

Let us be mindful of the warnings written in this article. With warming temperatures, let us remember who we are and Who we serve! Just because the temperature has changed does not mean our godly standards have, too!!

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