DON'T SHOOT PEOPLE!

It's in the Bible… "Thou shalt not murder!" No particular weapon is delineated, but the point is clear. Don't stab, club, shoot (with an arrow, in ancient times, bullets today), etc. – just don't kill innocent people!

Last week the shootings in my old neighborhood (in Aurora, Colorado) were up 960%! And it's nowhere near downtown. Also last week one particular shooting in Butler, Pennsylvania, garnered international attention because one husband and father was killed and 3 others were wounded, one being a candidate for the President of the United States!

In reality, the stakes are the same: *human life*. The age, gender, or financial status of the victim is far less important than the fact that human life is involved. Murder a rich man or murder a homeless pauper, and you go to the same prison! The pivotal point is the value of human life, not the victim's station in life.

Yes, murder and mayhem have been with us from the first family on earth – Cain killed his own bother out of jealousy and anger. Deuteronomy 5:17, "You shall not murder," literally means the taking of innocent life. It does not address the governmental execution of a criminal.

But why do people murder others? Jealousy, money, power, fear, or often a mistaken belief that the victim just needs die to make the world a better place. God's plan is that people need to repent to make the world a better place.

How deeply tragic it is when sick minds decide they are better at running the world than God can in His providence. That is what murder (or attempted murder) is: a sick mind believing that it can turn the wheels of time and eternity better than God, Himself!

Lies, hate and arrogance are influencing the national narrative in ways that corrupt the thinking and actions of immature people. Such people miss numerous truths of God, but particularly they miss the reality of Proverbs 13:15, "…the way of transgressors is hard." Anytime we transgress the laws of God, life becomes harder, not better. Pray for our country!

-Ray Wallace