



Pastor's Comments

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“Mournful” Hymns?

The recent tragedy in Lancaster County exposed **two vital misunderstandings** that the unregenerate have about themselves and about genuine Christians. News broadcasters, describing services held in the aftermath, mentioned that the Amish and others were finding comfort in **“mournful” hymns**. In the background **“Amazing Grace”** was playing softly. How deaf the ear of the unsaved is! **“Amazing grace! how SWEET the sound, that SAVED a wretch like ME! I once was lost, but now am FOUND, was blind but now I SEE.”** That is **everything BUT mournful!** It is **joyous, encouraging, comforting, and hopeful** in the face of the worst that life can deal us!

In the ordinary way of thinking, this terrible killing spree is in the category of **“man’s inhumanity to man.”** **Actually, man is born a sinner, wicked, and filled with every imaginable evil.** When he acts on impulses, as the murderer in Nickel Mines did, he is **demonstrating his natural bent to such horrible wickedness.** The Bible teaches that **man has been corrupted by “the fall,” capable of every wickedness, and totally incapable of helping himself.** **“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil”** (Jer. 13:23). **“ALL we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”** (Isa. 53:6). We **ALL need a heart change** by the grace of God!

Mournful? No! This is **joy unspeakable** to an individual who realizes he is **capable of the worst offenses** the human heart can contemplate, **but who knows he is forgiven, justified, and reconciled** into fellowship with the offended Holy Deity. Man is wrong on two counts. He doesn’t know **how wicked he is** and the **resulting condemnation** he is under, and he **doesn’t understand the SWEETNESS** of deliverance!

—Submitted by church member,
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