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Virginia Tech: What can we learn?

SPRINGFIELD, MO. — A network news anchor asked a panel of experts, “What can we learn from the Virginia Tech massacre?”

The pundits responded with calls for heightened campus security, new alarm systems, stiffer handgun laws, and increased funding for counseling and mental health initiatives.

One commentator added, “We need to fix whatever led to this tragedy.”

Although new and improved systems can save lives, the problem cannot be “fixed” through technology, methodology or legislation alone. This is also a spiritual matter.

The killing spree would have been averted had the assailant surrendered his life to Christ. The most effective deterrent to crime is the gift of salvation. Jesus transforms hearts and minds, and gives purpose and self-worth to those who are lost and lonely.

Today we shed tears on behalf of families that have suffered a loss. But it is also a time to mourn the spiritual condition of our



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nation and to renew our commitment to prayer and evangelism.

As followers of Jesus, we need to ask ourselves what we can learn from this tragedy. Here is a partial list:

1. Lives will be saved if we befriend those who are lonely and forgotten.
2. Lives will be saved if we are sensitive to the voice of the Spirit and are willing to share our faith.
3. Lives will be saved if we pray for our campuses and campus ministries.
4. Lives will be saved if we financially support ministries like Chi Alpha, Youth Alive and The Seven Project.
5. Lives will be saved if we train up our children in the ways of the Lord so they can be ambassadors of hope on our campuses.

Hal Donaldson

E-mail your comments to tpe@ag.org.