

# Be On The Alert

Several weeks ago, on November 13, 2015, Islamic terrorists burst into a concert venue in Paris, France, and opened fire on the crowd, killing 89 and injuring 368 (about one of every three people inside).

Gunmen killed 41 others across Paris that same night, but I want to focus on the concert.

The crowd had come to listen to a band who had been gaining a lot of popularity in recent years. They call themselves, “The Eagles of Death Metal.”

Now, the name is a bit of self-effacing humor. Apparently, the lead singer got into an argument with a guy who was listening to “Winds of Change” by The Scorpions, and scoffed that it sounded less like metal and more like The Eagles. (For those of you who are rock music illiterate, it would be like calling a movie the Sesame Street of horror movies.)

Anyway, he decided it would be a catchy name for his band. Indeed, I’ve listened, and they aren’t death metal. But that doesn’t mean they are wholesome.

I looked up the lyrics of some of their songs and they were, well, interesting. Here, for example, are the lyrics to one of their more popular songs, “Kiss the Devil.”

Who'll love the devil?

Who'll song his song?

Who will love the devil and his song?

I'll love the devil!

I'll sing his song!

I will love the devil and his song!

Who'll love the devil?

Who'll kiss his tongue?

Who will kiss the devil on his tongue?

I'll love the devil!

I'll kiss his tongue!

I will kiss the devil on his tongue!

Who'll love the devil?

Who'll sing his song?

I will love the devil and his song!

Who'll love the devil?

Who'll kiss his tongue?

I will kiss the devil on his tongue.

Who'll love the devil?

Who'll sing his song?

I WILL LOVE THE DEVIL AND SING HIS SONG!

And that's the sort of thing being chanted and cheered at by the crowds just seconds before terrorists burst in the front doors and slaughtered them with automatic weapons and hand grenades.

Now, this is not an article about irony, going to listen to death metal, and actually meeting your death.

This is not an article about Satanism or devil worship. I certainly wouldn't be singing those lyrics or celebrating those themes, but The Eagles of Death Metal sound more like They Might Be Giants than Black Sabbath, if you check them out on Youtube. They are no more Satanists than Martha Stewart. The band is just being mischievous, and do not understand nor even recognize the spiritual forces at work.

Here's the thing about that: Satan couldn't care less. Satan actually works best when people don't say his name, when they don't realize that he is present and active. So, don't worry about the influence so-called Satanists are having on society. Worry much more about the real influence Satan is having on our own homes and lives, behind the scenes. Don't comfort yourself thinking that you are not cooperating with Satan because you don't attend a Church of Satan and kneel within a pentagram. We glorify Satan any time we give into temptation, false teaching, or simple materialism.

This is not an article about deserving judgment; that somehow those inside the venue mouthing such trash got exactly what they deserved. Those inside were not worse sinners than those in other concert venues across Paris that night listening to soft jazz or opera. They were not worse sinners than those sitting quietly in cafes across Paris that night, chatting with their

own spouses over cups of hazelnut coffee. They were not worse sinners than the grandmothers rocking gently in their rocking chairs across Paris that night, kitting blankets in undisturbed silence. All human beings—from the worst to the best—deserve death in the sight of a holy God.

Jesus was asked about this sort of thing once, during His earthly ministry, in Luke 13:1-5.

There were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Dramatic tragedies happen all the time, but they don’t always mean that those who lost their lives deserved it. Tragedies big and small should remind us, however, that life is delicate, and that we are all destined to leave this earth one way or another, sooner or later. We must repent and get our lives right with God, so that we will not perish spiritually. We can’t avoid physical death, but those who confess Jesus and participate in His resurrection have no fear of the “second death” of Hell (Revelation 20:6).

So then, what is this article about?

It’s about preparation! On that night, 89 souls met God with Satan’s praises on their tongue. That is crushingly sad to contemplate.

But on any given night, there are souls that meet God equally unprepared. Their stories never make the news. The places of their passing are never adorned with wreaths and memorials. There are people involved in illicit relationships who have sudden heart attacks. There are people with stolen merchandise in their car who get into serious car accidents. There are people playing golf on Sunday morning who never make it back to the house. There are people blithely watching TV who die in the easy chair, having not prayed in a decade.

Be prepared at all times. “Be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming” (Matthew 24:42–44).

One handy rule of thumb is this: “do not be involved in anything that you wouldn’t want to be doing at the instant that Jesus returns.” It may be a bit too strict, but I like the power of the statement. If something separates you from God, don’t let that go on for a second longer. Salvation is available through His blood; forgiveness is through prayer. Do not delay, and be ready for His call.

—John Guzzetta