
SUICIDE

Exodus 20:13

INTRODUCTION

We would all agree that suicide is deeply troubling and painful. What causes a person to do the unthinkable is very personal; it knows no boundaries of age, ethnicity, gender or religion. As believers we often view suicide as a crisis of the unsaved; however, when a born-again Christian commits or contemplates suicide, it is both tragic and confusing!

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- A. Historically, the Romans and Greeks held a _____ view of suicide.
- B. The Greek philosopher Aristotle _____ suicide only for the reason that it robbed the community of the _____ of one of its members.
- C. In ancient Greece convicted _____ were permitted to take their own lives!
- D. Prior to the American Civil War, _____ suicide was viewed as a “social protest.”
 - Abolitionist writer, William Lloyd Garrison, portrayed slaves that took their own lives as a response to the perceived hypocrisy of the United States Constitution.
- E. During _____ _____ II, the Japanese sent “kamikaze” pilots to attack allied ships:
 - About _____ kamikaze pilots died during the war.
- F. In _____ author Doris Portwood wrote the book, “Common Sense Suicide: The Final Right.”
 - People must be _____ these kinds of publications because according to data provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, _____ Americans die by suicide every day!
- G. Suicide had at one time been a _____ in the United States with a penalty of “ignominious burial” and forfeiture of _____!
- H. Physician-_____ suicide is legal in at least _____ states and in the District of Columbia.

II. BURNING ISSUES

- A. Often those who commit suicide do so because of a desire to “_____ it _____”:
1. Sadly, those who commit suicide are ignorant of the _____ that a person continues conscious existence _____ the death of the body!
 - The famous educator and evangelist, Dr. Bob _____ Sr. once said: “The greatest thought that ever occurred to me is that _____ of us will live somewhere _____!”
 2. Suicide cannot even kill the _____ of the things that may have driven the individual to suicide – Luke 16:20-2p5
- B. Can a _____ commit suicide?
1. _____, but ending one’s earthly life selfishly by suicide is not God’s _____ – Psalm 37:23
 2. The believer’s life is in God’s _____ – Job 14:5; Psalm 31:15
 3. The Word of God _____ that once a person is saved, they are secure and saved _____. – John 5:24; 6:37; 10:27-30; I John 5:11-13
- C. As a believer, I would rather be in _____, as Paul wrote – Philippians 1:22,23
1. First, read the _____ verse (24), God has a _____ for His children down here – Ephesians 5:15-17
 2. As believers, we are _____ our own, we _____ to Him – Psalm 100:3; I Corinthians 6:19,20
 3. If God wanted all believers in Heaven, instead of on _____, He could have _____ us there immediately following our salvation!

III. BIBLICAL INSIGHT

- A. Suicide is sin, because suicide is _____ – Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:9
- “Suicide: the act of intentionally _____ oneself.”
--*American Heritage Dictionary*
- B. There are five instances of suicide in _____, and all of them are in a context of shame and _____:

Lesson 3: Suicide

1. Abimelech – Judges 9:52-54
 2. King Saul – I Samuel 31:3-5
 3. Ahithophel – II Samuel 17:23
 4. Zimri – I Kings 16:18
 5. Judas – Matthew 27:3-5
- C. There are three instances when more _____ characters asked God to take their lives, and He did _____ comply:
1. _____ – Numbers 11:12-15
 2. _____ – I Kings 19:4
 3. _____ – Jonah 4:1-3
- D. God will _____ lead a Christian into a situation where violating His Word (suicide – Exodus 20:13) is the _____ option. – I Corinthians 10:13
- Remember, God’s knowledge is without _____; His promise is not based on what we _____ we can bear, but on what He _____ we can bear!

The fact that a suicidal person often sees himself as a powerless victim, while the Bible calls suicide sin, reveals the shift that must occur in his thinking. Suicide is a profoundly tragic act, but it is ultimately an expression of self-centeredness contrary to our position as creatures responsible to a Creator.

--Jeffrey S. Black