

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Suicide

Many of those who commit suicide have felt that there is no hope for them to continue living. They are usually depressed from the trials and tribulations that have affected their lives. If anyone might have considered committing suicide, it could have been Job. "When the sons of God [angels] came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil'" (Job 2:1-3). The Lord gave Satan permission to persecute Job by taking all of his livestock, slaying his servants, and killing all of his children (Job 1:12-19). After these things Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped [God]. Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Bless be the name of the Lord." "Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God" (Job 1:20-22).

"Satan answered the Lord and said, 'Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life'" (Job 2:4). Satan charged Job with callousness; being willing to give up the skin of his animals, servants, and children, in order to save his own skin. Satan said to the Lord, "touch his bone and his flesh [take his health away]; he will curse you to Your face." Satan has to seek permission from the Lord to allow trials and tribulations in this life because the Lord said to Satan, "Behold he is in your power, only spare his life" (Job 2:5-6).

"Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Then his wife said to him, 'Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!'" Job could have taken his wife's advice and committed suicide, "but he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks: 'Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips'" (Job 2:7-10). Many who commit suicide have been unable to accept adversity and the trials that come with this life. Jesus said, "in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world" (John 16:23).

In the sermon on the mount Jesus said, "You have heard that the ancients were told [Ten Commandments], 'You shall not commit murder'" (Exodus 20:13).

Paul wrote, "For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself" (Romans 14:7). The meaning of this scripture is our actions do affect others as well as ourselves. To commit suicide is to be one who is selfish. The previous scripture teaches that whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. No Christian considers himself as his own master, or at liberty to regulate his conduct according to his own will, or to his own ends. He is the servant of Christ, and, therefore, endeavors to live according to His will and for His glory. In dying, we die to Him; so, living or dying we are the Lord's. Our whole earthly existence, even our life or death, is a service for our Lord and Master. No murderer has eternal life abiding in him (1 John 3:15). Those who commit suicide think they are eliminating their current pain and suffering only to have eternal pain and suffering away from the presence of the Lord. Remember, that is what Satan wants because he is "a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him" (John 8:44).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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