

The Christian and Suicide

What Does The Bible Say?

There are many questions that come to mind concerning the Christian and Suicide. The most common question is: Can a Christian commit suicide and still go to heaven? In this study, I will attempt to answer the question. There are no Scriptures that address the issue in a clear cut way that would make this an easy study with a concrete answer. We must look at it in relationship to God's plan of Salvation of grace through Jesus Christ.

Our salvation experience is based upon our belief in Jesus Christ and what He accomplished through His death, burial and resurrection. It is totally based upon His grace or unmerited favor in our lives, not upon our own works.

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Ephesians 2:46-10 (NKJV) *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Sadly, many who have come to believe on Jesus never become fully converted because of an unwillingness to totally die to self and lose their life for the sake of the gospel. Jesus says, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”*¹ What God is looking for is a lifestyle of repentance and humility that is born out of our faith in what He accomplished through Jesus Christ. This is what it means to believe with all of our heart, keeping in mind that the word “believe” is a verb or an action word. Our heart must be totally engaged with what our mind believes.

¹ Matthew 18:3

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God saves us by His grace when we believe with all of our heart. It's a gift from God that grants us entrance into heaven. Our entrance into heaven is obtained by our belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Once we have this gift firmly established in our lives, we can only lose it by a total rejection of Jesus Christ as our Savior which means we will have disowned Him after He bought us with a precious price. We will have trampled underfoot the Son of God and insulted the Spirit of Grace or blasphemed the Holy Spirit. This is the only unforgiveable sin.²

2 Timothy 2:12 (NIV) *If we endure we will also reign with him, if we disown him, he will also disown us;*

The Bible clearly expresses the sanctity of human life and that only God has the right to give and take life. Suicide is the taking of one's own life, which means that no one should have the right to presume upon God's authority by taking their own life.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (NKJV) *'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.*

Psalms 31:14-15 (NKJV) *But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." ¹⁵ My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.*

Even though suicide is a sin equal to murder and is often called self-murder, most Christians who have committed suicide did not disown Christ by no longer believing in Him.

Does sin keep any of us out of heaven? The Bible says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.³ Does a Christian who commits adultery, fornication or other evils and dies before they ask forgiveness go to hell because they gave into their weakness? I don't think so. Even

² Hebrews 6:4-6, Hebrews 10:26-29

³ Romans 3:23

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though their sin will cause some serious consequences, they are still covered in the righteousness of Jesus. Why would self-murder or suicide be any different?

One of the staff members from Verse by Verse Ministry is quoted as saying, *“If we believe a Christian who commits suicide dies without the hope of heaven; then we must conclude that most (if not all) Christians have likewise lost the promise of eternal life because they too will have failed to repent of a specific sin before they died. If continuous confession of sin is a requirement for salvation, then every Christian lives in constant jeopardy.”*⁴

Jesus not only paid the price for our sin and shame, He covered us in His righteousness that we might become the righteousness in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Philippians 3:9 (NKJV) *and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;*

Let's keep in mind that we serve a faithful High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses and continually allows us to come boldly into His presence no matter what we have done.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

⁴ Quote by Verse by Verse Ministry

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As we see in the above passage of Scripture, Jesus was tempted in all points, including suicide. Even though He never gave into the temptation, He understands the pain and agony that would lead one to committing suicide and is able to sympathize with them.

Even though God's grace covers our sins, does this give us an excuse to sin? As it says in Romans 6:1-2, "*God Forbid!*"

Romans 6:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?* ² *Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

Even though the events or the condition of one's mind that lead up to one taking their own life by self-murder can be excruciating, God forbid that anyone would give into the temptation of killing themselves. When one commits suicide, they are simply passing their pain onto their loved ones, who now have to deal with the aftermath of what they have done. The pain and humiliation that one's loved ones go through as a result of suicide is very excruciating and can go on for years. It's a scar that their children will bear for the remainder of their lives.

Suicide is sin and what you are saying is, "I've had enough of this pain and turmoil and I just can't take it anymore." You are making a conscious choice to sin by taking your own life. And, yes, it is a choice.

Throughout the Bible we are taught over and over to believe and trust in God for our lives. There is certainly a lack of faith in the person who commits such an act. The Bible is full of stories of prophets, apostles and even Jesus who were persecuted, tortured and even put to death, who did not commit suicide as a way out of their pain and agony. They fought the good fight of faith⁵ and did not give up. God expects the same from each one of us when we fall into this particular temptation.

Even though the possibility of one going to heaven after committing suicide exists, it's a big gamble with your life; and is like playing Russian roulette. Only God knows the true state of a person's heart and is the

⁵ 2 Timothy 4:6-8

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ultimate judge Who will make the final determination. As stated early in this study, “There are no Scriptures that address the issue in a clear cut way that would make this an easy study with a concrete answer.”

The Bible does say that some will be saved so as by fire with all of their works being burned up. I’m not sure what that looks like in eternity, but I’m quite sure I don’t want to find out. I’m afraid the person who commits suicide will find out what that really means with their last act before death being an act that was not borne out of a heart of faith, but rather unbelief in a God who delights in deliverance.

1 Corinthians 3:12-18 (NKJV) *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,*¹³ *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*¹⁴ *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*¹⁵ *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*¹⁶ *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*¹⁷ ***If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.***¹⁸ *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.*

Personally, I find verse 17 in the reference above very troubling when it comes to suicide. With suicide one is definitely destroying the temple of God where the Holy Spirit resides.

My conclusion in this whole matter is that the person who commits suicide is in the hands of God, whose mercy always triumphs over judgment.