

Pastor Jason Cooley
Old Paths Baptist Church
1651 Jefferson Pkwy
Northfield, MN 55057
(507) 403-9327

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Suicide or Self-murder – Will a Christian commit suicide?

I want to talk to you about a serious subject here tonight, but I'm not going to finish it tonight, I'm going to start it tonight. There's going to be two or three more messages on this subject. We are going to talk about, tonight, suicide. It's a very serious problem in the world. It's a very serious problem among the churches even, we've seen it; among teenagers; among older people. There's a problem with suicide and I don't think and most pastors will not talk about that subject, it doesn't really come up until there's a funeral, or you're burying somebody because they've committed suicide, and then you will talk about it. But other than that, it's too taboo; it's too frightening; it's too hard to talk about. Well, I want to tell you the truth about suicide from the Scriptures and show you what the Bible says about it. And it's not going to be popular, I can guarantee it. Why? Because it's not popular to tell people the truth. Because you've been fed such disneyland fairy tales for so long in this country and in this world, that when you get straight truth, it just shocks you. When you get straight Biblical truth it's just so shocking that it's hard to digest for many people. But it ought to be a warning to people as well, to take this very seriously. Now tonight we're going to talk about suicide and we're going to talk about the Biblical perspective of it. We're going to talk about suicide or self-murder: Will a Christian commit suicide? Did you notice I used the word will and not can. Because I believe it's a "will" issue not a "can" issue. Ok? There's a difference in those two. Because the doctrine of salvation has been wholly perverted into just an instantaneous thing – which it is instantaneous; salvation is instant, nobody's denying that, but then there's nothing else to it, that was it. It's like a one time confession to a priest almost; that's what people see it as, and then there's no life after that. But salvation is life!! It's life from the dead.

1 John 15:3 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

So what does that have to do with anything? A lot. Murder.

Galatians 5: 19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Is suicide murder? Absolutely it is. We're going to talk about that, but the definition of suicide is self-murder. Oh let's not use that word, let's use suicide. No. Let's use self-murder, because that's what it is. That is the definition: self-murder. In the 1828 dictionary that is. Now we can dumb it down a few hundred years and change it if we want to, a few hundred years forward, we can change it to something else now. But if you want to know the original intent of that word it's self-murder, that's what it is. Makes sense, doesn't it? Because that's exactly what it is. But in America we just change the words a little bit around and we can call it whatever we want to to make it sound better; kind of like the Patriot Act. Right? It's sounds great doesn't it? Man, that's for patriotism! Uh, no that means you're selling yourself down the river, that's not patriotism. That's called slavery. At least Hitler was honest with the words he used, well, a little bit anyway. He kind of had his own little spin on things too, but they got it from him though. They learned it from watching Hitler.

Let's pray: Father, Lord I pray that You bless us now; help us understand the truth of Your Word Lord God, and the seriousness of suicide, Lord, self-murder. Dear God that one would be snatched away from that that hears this message that one would be convinced to fall on their knees in repentance and faith, and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That those that are nearest to Hell would hear the truth. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

I want to read you just a few things here, then we'll get right into the Bible here. Of all the studies. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (The CDC) collects data about mortality in the U.S. including deaths by suicide. In 2013 the most recent year for which full data are available 41,149 suicides were reported. Making suicide the 10th leading cause of death for Americans. In that year someone in the country died by suicide every 12.8 minutes. From 1986 – 2000 the suicide rates in the U.S. dropped 12.5 to 10.4 suicides per 100K people in the population. Over the next twelve years, however, the rate generally increased and by 2013 stood at 12.6 death per 100K people.

In 2013 the highest suicide rate, 19.1, was among people 45-64 years old. The second highest rate 18.6 occurred in those 85 years and older. Younger groups have had consistently lower suicide rates than middle age and older adults. In 2013 adolescents and young adults age 15-24 had a suicide rate of 10.9. That's 10.9 too many friend.

For many years the suicide rate has been about 4x higher among men than among women. Four times higher. In 2013 men had a suicide rate of 20.2 per 100K and women had a rate of 5.5.

Of those who died by suicide in 2013 77.9% were male, and 22.1% were female. Makes sense though because you won't find a woman in the Bible that's committed suicide, that I'm aware of anyway. The 6 that I have here, none of them are women.

So, that gives you some understanding. Now, this is a very difficult topic from the Scriptures, it's not easy. It's not fun to talk about, that's why most pastors won't preach on things like this. I want you to leave in a good mood? No, I want you to leave in a sober mood. Church is about sobriety. Coming to the assembly is about being sober. It's about learning and being sober and being serious. Amen. That's what that word sober means, is serious. A lot of people don't want to talk about things like this. Why? Well, they're negative. No, negative is watching when you put them in the ground, that's negative. Positive is warning them before they get there!!

We have a nation full of cowards in the pulpits. They are a bunch of chickens. You know what's sad? Why are people still supporting them? That's what I want to know. Because they scratch their itching ears, that's why.

Number 1: Six men in the Bible committed suicide.

Six men – we're going to look at those six men here. By the way, at number six is interesting isn't it? It's the number of man. It's the infamous 666. What else is that six the number of? What is the sixth commandment? Thou shalt not kill. That's the sixth commandment. If you're not a catholic, they have one they change, I don't know if that's the same one or not.

We have six men who committed suicide in the Bible. And the real question to ask tonight is this: will a Christian commit suicide? Well what is my authority?

My final authority for faith and practice, what is it? The Bible. So if I don't see a man that was a Christian that committed a suicide, can I assume that a Christian will self-murder themselves? Am I allowed to go off my assumptions? My feelings? And all those things? Or must I look at the Scripture and take my authority from them, and them alone. Right. I have to. If I'm going to be honest and not use the word of God deceitfully to make people feel better. Listen, making people feel better has not helped us. In case you haven't looked around and figured it out, making people feel better isn't doing a whole lot of good.

We'll look at the first one. Abimelech is the first one. Abimelech, the first one to commit suicide or self-murder.

Judges 9:5 And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

So what happened here? Here's a murdering man. Now, listen, you have to have a devil in you to take all your brothers and to murder all your brothers, right? He's probably not what we would call a Christian man. I know what word Christian will mess up the dispensationalists, but just listen to me for a second here, don't worry about it, I know what I'm talking about. Should we just use the word a justified man? Or a just man? Why don't we use that word, that way you won't get confused. Because some people get upset about that, they get kind of upset if you use that term because then they go back in their mind and they have to get their charts out and it gets them all confused. So, I don't want anybody to have to do that. I want them to just be able to look at the Bible and just follow what it says here. So let's just say a justified man, ok? Alright? Then I won't make anybody mad. I probably already did, but, oh well. You know I don't really care.

Judges 9: 54) Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A women slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died. 55) And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man unto his place. 56) Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren:

Say, wait a minute, what was that? Well, that's what you would call DOCTOR assisted suicide. Right? His armorbearer was what? His caretaker; he carried

his armor; he was the one protected him; he was the one that stood by him; he's the one that was there for him, so I guess we could liken that to doctor assisted suicide. Why? He didn't put any fight up. He asked him would you please kill me? Like Jack Kevorkian when people went to him and said, could you please kill me? And that devil possessed man said, sure! I'll kill you! I like murder! I have death in my heart! I'll surely kill you!

So he did.

It doesn't sound like this was a righteous man though does it? Sounds as if God returned his evil upon himself, didn't he? You know, I believe that these men, they're reprobates, that's what they are. God just says, ok, you want to be evil? You want to kill seventy of your brethren? You're going to kill yourself. Why? Because they have death on their mind that's why. So what did he do? He killed himself he had somebody assist him in killing him.

I like this quote from AW Pink, he says this: Next let us consider cases of murder. Suicide is self-murder and one of the most desperate crimes which can be committed. And as much as this sin precludes repentance on the part of its perpetrator it is beyond forgiveness. Such creatures are so abandoned by God as to have no concern for their eternal salvation seeing they pass into the immediate presence of their judge with their hands imbrued in their own blood. Such are self-murderers for they destroy not only their bodies but their souls too.

Think about that. You say why is it beyond forgiveness? Because they've kissed their salvation away. They don't go to God and ask for repentance in faith; they don't go to God and beg to be forgiven of their sins and beg to be delivered from their present state. What do they do? They kill themselves.

Next, 1 Samuel 31, then we see Saul and Saul's armor-bearer, two men here. Now, we know how wicked of a man Saul was, right? We're going to talk about him a little bit later, but I'm just going to introduce him to you here at this part, then we'll pick it back up with Saul in a few minutes here, later on.

1 Samuel 31:4 Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

Now this is interesting, and I'm going to develop it in a few minutes here, so we're not going to stay on this, ok? But 1 Chronicles 10:13 is a good tie in with

this and it explains a lot of what's going on here, and I'm going to explain what's going on to you with suicide and everything, and the religious people, ok? I don't call them saved, because saved people are not religious, they're born again, ok? But listen to what happened here:

1 Chronicles 10:13 So Saul died (for what?) for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not (we're going to talk about that), and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of (what?) IT;

No, of Samuel? No. What does it say? OF IT. Who did he talk to? Oh! It was Samuel! No it wasn't. It was a familiar spirit. Of it, not of Samuel, of it! There ya go! That's the familiar spirit, that's who he inquired of. Some say Saul was saved because a familiar spirit through a witch said to Saul you would be with me tomorrow at this very time. (*1 Samuel 28:19*) You're right, he was going to be with you at that very time. Alright. He was. But who was talking? A familiar spirit that called itself Samuel. Unless you think that God uses witches to get messages to you. Do we believe that? Do we believe that God uses witches to conjure up spirits from the underworld to get a hold of somebody? Of course not. He forbids you to even go to a witch or talk to a witch. See you have to understand how familiars work and that they are that person to you. Just like when somebody goes to a familiar spirit, what happens? They call themselves that person. When somebody says well, I want to know who my mom is, I want to talk to my mom. What do they do? They say I want to talk to my mom. So they say ok, we'll bring up your mom. Are they really bringing up your mom? No. It's a familiar spirit that followed them around; watched their life. Anyway, go back and see the series on familiar spirits, I don't have time to develop that right now.

2 Samuel 17:23 And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulchre of his father.

Ahithophel, who was he? He was the one that turned his back on the Lord's anointed and sold them out to his son Absalom, a type of the anti-Christ. Sold them out too(*2 Samuel 15:12*). Hardly a man that followed the Lord his God, but forsook him and king David in his heart long ago. What ended up happening to him? Well, he went to his house and he hung himself. He committed suicide – self-murder – he murdered himself.

Next we find another man, Zimri number five, Zimri.

1 Kings 16: 16) And the people that were encamped heard say, Zimri hath conspired, and hath also slain the king: wherefore all Israel made Omri, the captain of the host, king over Israel that day in the camp. 17) And Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah. 18) And it came to pass, when Zimri saw that the city was taken, that he went into the palace of the king's house, and burnt the king's house over him with fire, and died. 19) For his sins which he sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD, in walking in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin which he did, to make Israel to sin.

Does this look like a God-fearing man? No. What did he do? He was likened to Jeroboam the son of Nebat that made Israel to sin. Why did he make them to sin? They served false gods and he was a murderer. So he took care of himself; went up there burned the house down and died. What kind of deranged mind does that? I believe it's demonic, that's why. We're not going to talk about the causes today, we're going to talk about the causes and symptoms of suicide on Sunday, ok? What causes that? What comes into play with all these things? And you're going to see what does. We'll touch a little bit on it tonight, but not a whole lot; not a whole lot tonight about that.

It doesn't look very good so far though, ok? The last one really won't make you feel any better, doesn't look very good either. When you look at this, ok. And believe me when I tackle this topic I'm not being insensitive but I am being very clear, because the Word of God is very clear about this. There's not a lot to guess, it's very clear.

Matthew 27, let's come to Judas Iscariot. He is the sixth man here; that number six. It's kind of weird, isn't it? But he is. And what did he do here?

Matthew 27:5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

He hanged himself, why? Well, we're going to look at the evidence in the Scriptures as to why this man did this and why these men do this and what was behind some of this. But you know we can't take any outside variables as we must show these are the six men in the Scriptures that committed suicide. It makes sense doesn't it? That it shows these six men because of the

percentage that we find, today was like 79% of people that commit suicide were men, right? The question comes that, well, preacher then has anybody ever had those symptoms that they wanted to die? Well, sure. Sure, there's been a lot of people. In fact I'm going to show you those people right now in Jonah 4. There have been men; there are many people who want to die in the Bible. That's without question, there are many people in the Word of God that they wanted to die, that's recorded in Scriptures. They didn't want to live any longer.

Jonah 4:3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

What's the difference though? What's the difference in what Judas did, who went out and hung himself and what Jonah did right here? Big difference. One became a god and killed himself and made himself like God and slew himself and fell on his own sword and killed himself. The other cried out to God, Oh God take my life from me. What did that do? It was recognizing the sovereignty and the authority of God in life and death. That doesn't mean you're not going to have struggles; that doesn't mean you're not going to have depression, which we'll talk about on Sunday. It doesn't mean you're not going to have those things. It doesn't mean that nobody ever got depressed in the Scriptures. It doesn't mean that nobody every felt like they wanted to die. But the difference is he didn't say, I'm going to kill myself, did he? What did he say? He said, Therefore now, O Lord; he went to God; he went to the Lord and he cried out to Him, and he said, Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. Is that the only man? No. We'll find another man. By the way, these are prophets of God. These are men that served God. Spurgeon was a man that was very depressed. A lot of people don't know that about Charles Spurgeon. I have his auto-biographies. A lot of people don't realize Charles Spurgeon was a very depressed man. He had gout and some other things that helped cause his depression. And they didn't know about good diets and things back then and things that could have helped him probably through that, a lot of it. You know, they didn't have a lot of that knowledge of some of those things, or they did and they just didn't do it back then. He had gout, he had some problems, and he had depression. He would get depressed and it's a very dark time in somebody's life when they get depressed. But these men of God had the same thing, they had a very dark time come in their life, where it was dark and they felt as if they were going to die, and they just cried out to God because they wanted to die because things were so hard. That does not mean that men feel that way sometimes. But see, you want to know the difference in the man that commits self-murder and this

man? The man that commits self-murder is looking at himself. The man that cries out to God to take his life is looking to God. That's the difference. One is looking to God; the other is looking to self. And if you keep your eyes on self, I'll promise you one thing – you'll want to die!

1 Kings 19:7 And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

A loving hand of God. What happened to him (Elijah)? Well, he had a Jezebel after him. And I'm going to tell you what, that'll make somebody want to die. Alright? That'll make somebody want to die, you get a Jezebel after you. You'll be wanting to run too (lol).

You know, here's the thing, he just had one of the greatest victories of his life but he was scared of a woman, and he ran from her. Because he knew she had some power, she was a high-level witch herself, ya know. He was a little afraid of her, wasn't he? Pretty dark time for him so he took off.

1 Kings 19:8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

Do you understand that this man went forty days and forty nights, that angels fed him, right? Angels fed him there; he ate some angel food, right? And then he took off. That's not Jimmy-John's that's angel food. I don't think it's Jimmy-John's, I'm pretty sure it's not. I'm almost pretty positive it wouldn't be anything near that, or McDonald's, nothing like that. It was from Heaven so it wouldn't have been any of those things.

1 Kings 19: 9) And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the Word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? 10) And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

He wanted to die, he didn't want to live, you know? He wanted God to take him. He didn't want to stick around there. It was hard for him. People go through struggles and life is hard sometimes. Life is not easy all the time. Sometimes you're going to go through some dark things in your life. You're going to go through some things where you don't see the light. You don't see anything at

the end. And the problem is is that you're looking upon yourself. You're looking upon yourself. And if you keep looking at yourself you're going to get discouraged; and you're going to get depressed. And you're not going to think that life is even possible or able to cope with. And that's what happens to people. That's what happens to a lot of people. They don't think they can cope with life anymore because hard times come; and challenges come; and we face things in this life and they are not easy to face sometimes. But what was Elijah doing though, what was he doing? Wasn't he concentrating on himself? Wasn't he looking at himself instead? What was he looking at? Were his eyes on the Father in Heaven? Were his eyes on one that could deliver him from his problems? No. His eyes were not. Read verse number four there.

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die...

This is the scenario, this is what took place, ok. He wanted to die, he sat down under a juniper tree and said, I want to die Lord, just take my life, that's my request, let me go. Did he kill himself? Did he take out a sword and kill himself? Did he go and try to jump off the mountain? Did he try to do any of those things? No! What did he do? He called out to God, he said, Lord, just take my life. Let me go.

Let's go to Job 3, boy if anybody would want to die, right? If anybody would want to die. He didn't get his "Best Life Now" sermon did he, from ol'smiley face; the joker himself. He looks like the twin to Joyce Meyer; Joyce and Joel – twin jokers. Jezebel and Ahab right there. I think Joyce has got him beat for manhood though. I'm going to tell you that right now. I think she could take him, seriously.

Job 3:1 After this opened Job his mouth, and cursed his day.

Well that doesn't sound very good.

Job 3: 2) And Job spake, and said, 3) Let the day perish wherein I was born, and the night in which it was said, There is a man child conceived. 4) Let that day be darkness; let not God regard it from above, neither let the light shine upon it. 5) Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it. 6) As for that night, let darkness seize upon it; let it not be joined unto the days of the year, let it not come into the

number of the months. 7) Lo, let that night be solitary, let no joyful voice come therein. 8) Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning. 9) Let the stars of the twilight thereof be dark; let it look for light, but have none; neither let it see the dawning of the day: 10) Because it shut not up the doors of my mother's womb, nor hid sorrow from mine eyes. 11) Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly? 12) Why did the knees prevent me? or why the breasts that I should suck?

This is a man that is completely depressed and he's grieved by everything that happened around him. But was his petition to kill himself? Hey, he was almost dead as it was. He had boils all over his body; all of his children died. He had lost everything that he had. Did he turn to himself and say, well, I think it's time to check out of here. I think it's time to kill myself. No! Because he was a justified man he was a saved man and his hope was in a tree; and that's what he said. He said my hope is in a tree. He said I know my Redeemer liveth and he will stand on the ground in the end days. That's what he said, not word for word, but that was the idea. He said, I know he liveth, I know my Redeemer liveth. And he'll stand on the earth in the latter day. (*Job 19:25*) That's what he said and that's why he didn't take his life, but he did ask God to take his life; he did ask God to take his life. God get me out of here! Just take me!! Why died I not in my mother's womb? That's a man that is grieved. And that's part of it, but you see these men are never... we don't sorrow as those that have no hope. Do you understand that? No matter how dark it gets for the child of God, he does not sorrow as one that has no hope.

So we see men in the Bible that wanted to die. But we find one interesting thing about them. They never took their own life. And they had more reason to do it than those men that took theirs. But they never took theirs. Why? Because they had the Spirit of the Living God in them. They were a child of the King. They were a believer and they were justified by faith. If you don't understand that, go back and look in Hebrews it will tell you by faith everything that they did. Because you have to understand, Job was a man with a lot of faith, because if he wasn't, he wouldn't have made it.

So why do people take their own life? Because they don't have the faith. They don't have that faith of Christ. They don't have that spirit; they don't have the power of God. Those men knew that they wanted to die, but they wanted the Lord to take their lives because they understood who holds the power of life and death in their hand. They knew they weren't God, they knew they had no right

to murder themselves! Because the Bible says very clearly THOU SHALT NOT KILL! (*Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17*) And they knew it! And they obeyed it! And they wanted to die, but they wouldn't do it at their own hand. What stopped them? The Lord. Every man that fell into depression or demonic oppression or persecution or affliction that we have listed – they wanted to die, but they didn't take their own life. Howbeit the Lord blessed their lives and they lived on. But every wicked, hell-bound sinner that we find we find in the Scriptures that did take their life REJECTED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD! They absolutely rejected the sovereignty of God. That's what they did. Do you know that's what you have to do to commit suicide? You have to reject the sovereignty of God. And you have to take your own life and you have to become god and say I hold the power of life and death in my hand and I will take my own life. And they don't have that hope of Christ because if they had it, they wouldn't do it. I don't believe that God will allow them to and I'm going to show you why. But the Bible says no self-murder, and that's a murder. And the Bible clearly says no murderer hath eternal life dwelling in them (*1 John 3:15*).

In self-murderers there's no hope. Look at Judas; look at Judas, he had betrayed the innocent blood! And what did he have? NO HOPE! None.

The Bible says that the Lord had rejected Saul because he had rejected the Word of the Lord (*1 Samuel 15:26*) What does that mean, rejected? It means he was reprobate silver, right? He was rejected of God. I believe Saul kissed away his day of salvation, I really do, and I believe the Lord had departed from him. I also believe it says in the Bible too, and it's important to note, that Saul, he was anointed with the vial and not the Blessing of the Horn either (*1 Samuel 10:1*). If you look at a vial, a vial is meant for judgment and a horn is meant for blessing. And Saul was anointed with a vial. Saul was the judgment of God upon Israel for wanting a king.

1 Samuel 8:7 And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

What happened? You rejected Him – He rejected you. So He gave you a king that would eventually reject the word of the Lord! He gave you what your heart wanted. You wanted one of those worldly kings over you because that's what you said. You said give us a king! Nay, but give us a king that shall reign over us! (*1 Samuel 8:5*) We want to be like all the other countries that have kings that rule over them and go out and fight their battles for them; we don't want God to

fight out battles. Saul was the judgment upon Israel for rejecting the Lord. He had allowed them to choose that king. David was a blessing because he was a man after God's own heart.

Anyway, we see Saul committing suicide. And we take Judas, and we see Judas was a religious man, wasn't he? Judas held the money-bag didn't he? Judas cast out devils. In Matthew chapter 7 if you understand that, this confuses a lot of people, but he's talking about in the future and he's also talking about Judas Iscariot because he says here, (v21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (v22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? (*Judas did that.*) and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (*Judas did those, he did miracles*) (v23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

What does John 13:27 say about Judas? The man that committed suicide? It says that: And after the sop Satan entered into him... Now see that's interesting, isn't it? Because what we find, we find the devil directly involved with suicide. Directly! Do you know what the devil does to people after he gets done indwelling them and using them? HE KILLS THEM! Don't believe me? I dare you to get on-line, go to wayoflife.org and look up rock musicians that were MILLIONAIRES! HEY! HOW ABOUT MICHAEL JACKSON THE MOST FAMOUS MUSICIAN IN THE WORLD PROBABLY, what happened to him? Dead; done; drugged himself to death – doctor assisted suicide. Oh they didn't call it that, but that's what it was. How many other men committed suicide, how many other rock stars? How many other people? We'll talk about that on Sunday a little bit. And how many of these other people committed suicide? Why? Because they had deals with the devil, that's why. And when the deal with the devil is over it's pay-up time. And when you pay-up time you pay with your soul in Hell for all of eternity. And you will loose your life; and you will take your own life. When satan's done with you, you'll want to die.

So, we have a man that killed himself and we have satan entering him. And then we have another man – a man that consulted with devils and a familiar spirit, Saul. Hey, wait, Saul killed himself, didn't he? But what did he do before he killed himself? He visited a witch and called up a familiar spirit. So, do you think the occult and witches and calling up spirits and all those things might have something to do – that dark side – might have something to do with suicide? It might be from the devil!? It might be actually a leading of the

demonic world; of the devilish world; of the devil, himself, and his kingdom!? Of course!! Who do you think is speaking in your ear all the time! Who do you think is trying to get you into a mode of depression – at a point where you're depressed?! You think it's all of you, right? You don't think there's a kingdom out there that's actually working! I SURE WISH GOD'S PEOPLE WOULD BELIEVE HIS BOOK!! I WISH YOU FEARED THAT! I WISH YOU FEARED GOD! I WISH YOU UNDERSTOOD AND BELIEVED HIS WORD WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT THIS WICKED WORLD THAT'S OUT THERE! AND THAT WE WRESTLY NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD!! WHEN YOU LOOK AT SOMEONE THAT COMMITTS SUICIDE, OR WANTS TOO – THEY'RE NOT WRESTLING WITH FLESH AND BLOOD!! THEY'RE WRESTLING WITH **DEVILS!!!** And they don't have any power to fight them. Why? Because they don't have their armor on (*Ephesians 6:10-18*). They're not saved; and they can't fight them off. And pretty soon they're given over to their own delusion and they take their life, and they kill themselves. But, hey, let's not look at the Scriptures. Let's not do that. That would be too simple, right? We would actually have to believe that the devil hates us and then we wouldn't be able to flirt with his kingdom anymore; we wouldn't be able to watch his wicked movies; we wouldn't be able to go to the wicked places and do the wicked things, would we? We wouldn't be able to play with the world if we actually believed this Bible!!

So we see Saul, plays around with a familiar spirit, talks to it. By the way, I'm just curious, let me ask you a question, do you think Saul jumping on that sword and killing himself had anything to do with that familiar spirit telling him that he would be with Samuel? Do you think that might have had something to do with his decision to jump on his sword and kill himself? Because, hey! I'm getting out of this place! I'm going to Heaven! I'm going to paradise! I'm going to be with Samuel! WAKE UP!! That's what he did! And what did he do? He followed it. You means like when people say they can tell the future and they do different things? Yeah, because, you see, when you start consulting devils and familiar spirits, here's what you're doing, ok? Horoscopes and everything else, they help arrange things to happen that way. Do you believe that. They help arrange things to happen that way. I know, you thought they were all sleeping in Hell. They're all sleeping right now. I had one guy tell me that, “well, satan, he's bound. He's bound in Hell.” He is now? That's not what Paul said; that's not what the Lord Jesus said; that isn't what the Bible says! “Oh, he's not working, that's silly, come on. It's all human, it's all us... it's not... yeah...” Yeah, it's not them, huh? Yeah. Yeah. Read the Bible more. We see these examples of men that committed self-murder and they're tied together with devils. By the way,

what does God say? All them that hate me love death (*Proverbs 8:36*).

Folks, I didn't write it I just have to preach it, and I have to be true to the text. I can't just ignore it so somebody feels better. I realize there are people out there in Christian homes that committed suicide and they say "well, they were saved, they're in Heaven now..." I'm sorry, I don't believe that. Because I don't believe you have a Biblical basis for saying that. I think your feelings might tell you that, and their 1-2-3-pray-after-me might tell you that, but not the Scriptures and not any example in the Bible. You don't find an example of somebody that was born-again, doing that; or a righteous man doing that You don't find that in the Scriptures anywhere. Where do you find that in? Well, we're so used to Disney theology. We want it always to have a happy ending. Right? But it's more the like real ending of Disney. Do you know what the real ending of Disney is? Miley Cyrus; Britney Spears. A life of Hell, death and destruction. That's the real end of the story of Disney. Am I stepping on anybody's idols tonight? I hope not. I hope you've already crushed all those.

All of the children of God, though, they cried out to the Lord, didn't they? Zimri? He was a cold-blooded murderer, he killed all his brothers, come on. Listen, the child of God never hits the depths of despair that low that they would ignore the Judge of all the earth and place themselves on the Throne of God and "do what they wilt, as the whole of the law." And we're going to talk about the demonic aspect more on Sunday, because there is more; there's drugs; there's the demonic act; there's depression; there's a lot of things that go into it. I do believe that people can be mentally ill and do terrible things, but I cannot give you an example out of the Word of God how a saved man committed suicide. I can't find an example of that. By the way, some people will use Sampson in Judges chapter 16. They'll say, well, didn't Sampson commit suicide? No. No he didn't. No. Sampson did not commit suicide. Has it been said by some that he did? Yeah. But you have to read the Bible.

Judges 16:27 Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.

What does that mean? They're mocking him while he's in there; they're making fun of him because they burned out his eyes, the Philistines did, they burned out his eyes. And here's this strong man that picked up the doors of the gate. Do you know how big those doors are? And carried them up a hill. Have you ever been to, like, a fort, and have you ever seen their gates, like how big a fort is?

And their gates are just absolutely humongous and like no man could pick that up like that, right? I means that's what he did, he picked it up and he just... because he had the power of God. And he wist not that the Lord had departed from him (*Judges 16:20*). That's another sermon, by the way. Not for today.

Judges 16: 28 And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God...

What? Wait a minute, what do we have here? Do we have a man saying, welp, give me a knife, I'm going to stab myself? I'm going to take these drugs; I'm going to do this; I'm going to end my life. No. Nope. What do we have? We have a man. What is he doing? He's crying out to the Lord just like Elijah did; just like Jonah did; just like Job did. Ok? They cried out to the Lord. Sampson did the same thing

Judges 16: 28) And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God...remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. 29) And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left. 30) And Samson said, **Let me die with the Philistines...**

And what did God do? Let him die with the Philistines. Why? Because God wanted to take his life, that's why. Because Sampson was done. He had no testimony. What was he going to do? Go back to Israel? What was he going to say.

...Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life. 31) Then his brethren and all the house of his father came down, and took him, and brought him up, and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the burying place of Manoah his father. And he judged Israel twenty years.

See, Sampson called on the Name of Lord didn't he? On the power of the Lord. And he said Lord give me this strength this one time. What did God do? God allowed his life to be taken. Now why is that? I believe it was chastening, right? He wasn't going to be much of a testimony going back in there, to Israel. That was already done. And it was time for him to go; God was finished with him. And when God's done with you, He'll take you home. Amen! And by the way, nobody else will do it. They might try. And they can try their hardest, but if God

wants you here you'll be here as long as he wants you here. Amen. Don't you forget that either. And God granted his desire and he let him die a warrior's death. Again, but he appealed unto the Lord and he didn't take his own life. You say, well, how do you know that preacher? Well, he didn't have the strength to do it. He couldn't do that remember? All his hair was gone he couldn't do that. He didn't have the power to do that. Did he? Who gave him the power? God. Why? It was time for him to go home, that's why. By the way, that's God that chose that. That's not man that chose that; that's God Almighty that said, ok, you're going home. I'm taking you home. God gave him that supernatural power to defeat his enemies. But we don't see a saved righteous man taking his own life. We see that self-murder was left to the religious and demonic and depraved people.

Now, listen, when somebody gets to that point, that level of depravity and selfishness they're not a saved person. When they get to the level of that, to where they can't even... where they have no fear of God for taking their own life; they have absolutely no fear. Do you understand that? Do you understand what that has to take for someone not to have fear of God? And be a child of God and not have any holy reverence for God? And then say I'm going to take my own life. What is that? When they do that they don't have a fear of God. They're not scared to meet the judge. Why? Because there's no fear of God before their eyes, that's why. They're so concentrated on themselves; everything's about them. And nobody cares.

How about a man that wanted to take his life? And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. (*Acts 16:27*) Guy was going to kill himself, he said, man... I'm dead. I may as well take my own life. He was going to kill himself. It's a good thing he didn't. Why? BECAUSE HE GOT SAVED!! (*Acts 16:30*) Do you see that? God's Grace moved in there and he got saved!! And all his house. (*Acts 16:34*)

Romans 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

Do you understand that? You don't live to yourself, and you don't die to yourself. So what is suicide? It's an unnatural affection; it's an unnatural desire. Its a desire that does not, I'm telling you, it does not come strictly from the flesh! To want to kill yourself does not come from the flesh alone! Why? Because it is in man to have self-preservation; to keep his life no matter what. Even satan said

that, skin for skin (*Job 2:4*) a man will do whatever he has to do to save his own life. The devil knows it, doesn't he? So what does he do? His little kingdom and his wicked devils come in and tempt you in a supernatural way. That is against nature. It's like the sin of homosexuality. It's absolutely against nature! It is most demonic thing that is laid upon somebody. And suicide's the same way. It is a demonic attack when you see people that want to die, they are under demonic oppression or possession. When you see them willing to take their own life, they are under demonic either oppression or possession, one of the two, I don't know which. I can't tell until I see somebody like that but they are under one of the two things. Because it is not natural for a man to take his own life. It is natural for him to preserve his life and do whatever he can to keep it. Because number one it's against nature's law of self-preservation. Number two, only God has the right to give and take away life. Only God has that right. By the way, it's a failure to take God into account as well.

Self-determined, taking of one's own life fails or refuses to recognize the possibility of God's actions. One doesn't believe that God can do anything for them; doesn't have the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ in them. Now I know it can get dark and depressing because these men wanted to die, but they cried out to God, they didn't turn to the world; they didn't turn to themselves. They turned to God. That's the difference. They don't believe that God can work supernaturally or miraculously. Why? Because they're not saved that's why. They don't have the spirit of God inside of them. You're never going to convince me that a child of God murders himself, because I don't see it in the Bible anywhere. I see it as what? I see it as an absolute demonic attack brought on by many things which we'll talk about on Sunday. There's many, many things.

Suicide preempts the opportunity for God to work in their situation. They don't want God to work in it other words. They don't want him to work in their situation. They want to end it all themselves. They want to control their own destiny and do it themselves. Self-concern of suicide fails to recognize that there could be divine purposes in suffering. The Bible says that it is appointed to us to suffer for Christ's sake (*Philippians 1:29*). Sometimes there's suffering that God wants you to go through. And for a Child of God to take his own life means that he doesn't believe that God is sovereign and He's appointed suffering for some for a purpose. Probably because they're fed a prosperity-gospel that tells them hey, God doesn't want you to suffer; God doesn't want you sick; God wants everybody to be healed. Now it is true that we can cause our own damage. Alright? And God doesn't want us to poison ourselves; and God doesn't want us to do that. He doesn't want to do things to cause us to have

cancer and things like that. But the point is, that sometimes it's time to die, sometimes God wants you to die, but that's his choosing not yours. Sometimes he chooses stuff for you. Paul suffered; Paul had a thorn in his flesh and he suffered (*2 Corinthians 12:7*) He suffered greatly, but he suffered through it, didn't he?

Suicide is a failure to take others into account. It's an absolute selfishness, not caring about anybody else! People say, well I don't want to hear anybody say this, I'm tired of hearing people say this stuff that suicide is selfishness. Well, I'm sorry, but I'm not a psychologist. And number one, I don't care what you like because I'm not a psychologist and you're not paying me, ok? And number two you can't find it in the Scriptures where it's not. When you're looking at yourself all the time, you're not Christ centered – you're self-centered. Well, I care about my loved-ones and my life is so hard, I think I'll just take my life. No, you don't care about your loved ones you just care about yourself. Everything about that was YOU – YOU – YOU! It wasn't everybody else! You weren't caring about what your wife or your husband or what your children would think after they're watching you buried in the ground. No you didn't think about that you thought about yourself. You just thought about yourself. Just like the rich man in Hell, he never stopped thinking about himself (*Luke 16: 20-31*). Oh, he said, send him back, you know, for my brethren, that's so he wouldn't have that heaped on his head because they were there. It wasn't because he really wanted to be saved. It's because he didn't want them complaining to him for all of eternity that they didn't get a warning.

The sinfulness of self-concern is contrary to love of God. The Bible says bear ye one of those burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (*Galatians 6:2*). The person that is so selfish, thinking about themselves all the time; their life is centered around them and that's all that matters is how they feel. Guess what? Then guess what happens? You don't care about anybody else; and you're going to do what you want to do, and by the way, that is the law of satan – do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law. That is the law of satan, to be worried about myself and not care about anybody else. I don't care what you say, you can't tell me it's not selfish for a father to kill himself; or a mother to kill herself or even a sixteen or seventeen year old boy, or a daughter or something to go off and to kill themselves. You can't tell me that's not selfish. They don't care about anybody else, they want to end their pain. And they'll never end their pain because they'll be in pain for all of eternity in the lake of fire. And people say well, I think people are saved like that. Well show me one in the Bible and I'll believe you. Show me one Scriptural example. I'm sorry. I know this cuts

hard because you say this is really harsh. It might be really harsh but it's really true and that's what matters.

And I'm going to warn somebody, that's on the edge and thinks they're going to do a nose-dive into cement somewhere; they're going to jump off a cliff somewhere; or they're going to hang themselves somewhere. That you understand this thing: YOU WILL OPEN YOUR EYES UP IN THE LAKE OF FIRE FOR ALL OF ETERNITY. YOU'D BETTER RUN TO CHRIST, GET ON YOUR KNEES AND BEG HIM FOR MERCY!

And go talk to somebody; somebody that has a Bible that believes it.

Suicide always harms and damages others, it's contrary to love. You know they leave everybody holding the bag. You kill yourself you leave everybody else holding the bag. They've got to clean up the mess. You know somebody finds that body that's mutilated, probably your child somewhere; your child; the mother; the father; the friend; gets to find that body hanging there and gets to know that that's how they died. By the way, you often times leave people questioning or blaming themselves. You kill yourself and there's going to be people that will always blame themselves for what you did. They'll go to their grave blaming themselves; for you dying. Because they will always think that they did it because they can never have a conversation with you again so you could tell them no, it's not your fault. You can write a letter, and you can do all that, but it won't matter to them because they won't be able to look you in your eye for you to tell them that. And all the living have to deal with the consequences. Because there's consequences for actions.

Suicidal persons fail to recognize any of their responsibilities, they're concentrating on their own, they're concentrating on themselves – not anybody else. By the way, I was looking at something else, and I didn't put the statistic down here, but there's a statistic that says that, I believe it's annually – every year in America – suicide costs 41 billion dollars. The money's not the important thing, it's the point. That' 41 billion dollars, how does that have an effect on everybody else? Think about that. The hole that that leaves in their life, if all you're thinking about, well, they'd be better off without me. No, you'd be better off getting yourself right with God so you can be good to them. See, it's such a cowardly way out to say I'm gonna just die. It's a selfish cowardly way out, taking your own life. I don't want to hear that that's selfish, because people really go through a lot of stuff. Yeah, they do but it's demonic and that's why they need to get help with it, because that's what it is. We're going to talk about that on

Sunday. We'll talk about the fact that it's demonic, that it's from drugs, it's from depression and a whole host of other things that cause that, that lead people into suicide. A lot of things people don't understand, it's all written in the word of God though, the Bible shows us all those things. And that's exactly where these things come from because it is NOT NATURAL TO TAKE YOUR OWN LIFE. IT IS AGAINST NATURE TO KILL YOURSELF OR TO NOT PRESERVE YOURSELF.

So where does it come from folks? It comes from satan. And he maximizes on your flesh, and we'll talk about that on Sunday. But I hope you understand that there are no verses in the Bible; there's no Scriptures; there's no examples of a righteous man killing himself, taking his own life. Not. One.

And let it be a warning to some, out there who listen to this and think that its the one way out. No. that's the way to Hell. That's the way to Hell. Because I believe if you are successful in that you are not His child. Why? Because the Bible says There **hath no temptation taken you** but such as is common to man (*1 Corinthians 10:13*) Right? And God gives us what? A WAY TO ESCAPE. That you may be able to bear it. Right? God always gives a way out of any temptation that comes our way. That we are able to bear it. So if you're telling me that God doesn't give you a way out, I'm telling you you're not His child then, that's why. And if you take your life you're going to open your eyes up in Hell. Now the best thing that you can do, is number one go talk to somebody that has a Bible. Read the Bible first. Talk to somebody who has one that can show you the Scriptures. That you can be saved; that you can be forgiven of your sins. Because your sin is your problem and the devil hates you. And he's wearing on your soul because he wants you to go to Hell, and he wants to whisper in your hear. So he'll whisper in your ear, just go to Hell, just give up in life, it'll be easier; you'll go to Heaven if you do this. You'll just go to Heaven and you'll be fine; you'll be out of pain; you won't have any pain anymore; you won't have any problems anymore. No that's satan talking. That's his kingdom; that's the way that he works always to give someone an easy way out right? To take an easy way out. THERE ARE NO SHORT CUTS THOUGH! THERE ARE NONE. None. If you die without Christ and you take your own life, you'll end up in the lake of fire, because there are no short cuts, because there is no other way around it you go through the Blood or you don't go at all. But you want forgiveness for your sins, that's what your problem is and that's why you're depressed many times. Christians can get depressed and we'll talk about that too. But do you know what? Christians have hope because they have Christ and they are never left hopeless no matter how their bouts of depression go and

there are some that have them, they have bouts of depression. But do you know what? No matter how long and how many times that happens God always brings them through it. Always. Could it be that you're looking at yourself and not him? It always stays darker when you look at yourself. But when you look up to the light, it'll shine through and God will give your soul peace.

Father, thank you. Thank you for your words, thank you for the truth of them Lord, I pray it be a warning to those. And Lord as we preach on in this subject Lord willing, that we can help others with it, others that are trapped in some of those things and realize the symptoms, the causes and the symptoms and self-murder and what it leads to, which is Jesus Christ. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.