

suicide

If a Christian Commits Suicide, Will He Go to Heaven?

The word "suicide" is not found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin *sui*-meaning "of oneself", and *-cida*, meaning "to kill".

Augustine argued in the fifth century that suicide was a violation of the sixth commandment,

"You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13).

Later, Thomas Aquinas, being Catholic and believing that confession of sin must be made prior to departure from the world to the next, taught that suicide was the most fatal of all sins because the victim could not repent of it. The problem with his view is that it represents a gross misunderstanding of eternal security, which Scripture clearly teaches. We are saved by the grace of God, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9) and nothing can separate a Christian from the love of God (Romans 8:37-39).

Other verses that clearly teach assurance of salvation for the believer are:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 5:24

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand." John 10:27-29

"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." 1 John 5:11-13

However, suicide is not what God wants for anyone. We have a God who loves us and cares for us and promises to meet all of our needs if we place our trust in Him (Proverbs 3:5-6).

What does the Bible say about suicide?

Suicide is not a new idea. The Bible records seven suicides:

1. **Abimelech** (Judges 9:52-54) - he lacked personal identity
2. **Samson** (Judges 16:25-30) - he died for a cause he believed in and for revenge
3. **Saul** (1 Samuel 31:4) - he felt rejection, humiliation, and fear
4. **Saul's armor-bearer** (1 Samuel 31:5) - he wanted to die with his boss
5. **Ahithophel** (2 Samuel 17:23) - he was bitter because his advice was not followed
6. **Zimri** (1 Kings 16:15-20) - he was overwhelmed by a rebellious nature
7. **Judas** (Matthew 27:3-5) - he was overcome with guilt

1. **God has a great plan for your life.** God has created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). He created us for a purpose. God has a specific plan in mind for everyone.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29:11).

2. **God's plan is for life, not death.** The Bible teaches that both physical and spiritual death are the result of our sin and disobedience to God, but eternal life is a gift to those who receive it.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23).

3. **Jesus taught that death and destruction are the work of "the thief" (Satan).**

He said, *The thief comes only to steal and destroy.* (John 10:10a).

*John 8:44 says that Satan is a "murderer" and the "father of lies." The feelings of despair that lead to suicide are caused by some of his lies.

4. **Jesus wants us to have life.** He said:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10b).

5. **Life belongs to God.** It is never our place to take our own life or someone else's life.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

