

Seek Ye First...

"...the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

A Journal of Biblical Studies

May 2013

RESPECT OF LIFE

Tom Moore

For us to properly respect life we must ask: "Who am I?" The question "Who am I?" is a very important question for every human being to consider. It is difficult to overestimate how powerfully we are affected by the way we think about ourselves: our self-concept, our sense of personal identity. This has a huge impact on our view of life. The reason our nation has such a low view of life is their failure to understand who humans really are.

Scripture declared, "And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27). The Bible affirms that we are made in God's image. God is a personal being - and so are we. We are not merely things, or even animals - we are persons. The difference between us and the animals is not merely quantitative - it is qualitative. We do not merely have more cells than an animal, nor are we merely a more complex organism - we are of a different order of being altogether. Man has a soul and animals do not.

The difference between a human being and other beings in the world is vitally important. To murder a human being, for example, is a fundamentally different act than to take the life of an animal. "And surely your blood, the blood of your lives, will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it: and at the hand of man, even at the hand of every man's brother, will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man" (Gen. 9:5-6). This, incidentally, is why abortion and euthanasia is so wrong - it is the illicit taking of human life.

To say that we are persons created in God's image is to say that we have personal worth. We are truly worth more than any of the lower creatures. "Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they?" (Mat. 6:26). Again, we are worth more than animals because we were made in the image of God and possess a soul.

It is important to note also that God made us male and female - we are not just generic persons, we are men and women. It is an astonishing thing, really, to contemplate that God has made us to be persons like Himself with whom He can communicate and have fellowship. Since we have been created in God's own image as personal beings,

the central concern of our existence is our relationship to the God who created us. "his is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Eccl. 12:13-14).

Because we are held accountable to the law of God we have a biblical obligation to preserve life. "Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We have an obligation to preserve our body and the life and body of others because we are not our own - we are bought with a price.

The Psalmist declared, "Judge the poor and fatherless: Do justice to the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the poor and needy: Deliver them out of the hand of the wicked" (Psa. 82:3-4). God's moral principles never change. We have an obligation to protect those in danger.

"If thou faint in the day of adversity, Thy strength is small. Deliver them that are carried away unto death, And those that are ready to be slain see that thou hold back. If thou sayest, Behold, we knew not this; Doth not he that weigheth the hearts consider it? And he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? And shall not he render to every man according to his work?" (Pro. 24:10-12). We have a moral obligation to "rescue" them who are in danger. Would you not say that abortion is danger to the unborn child and needs to be rescued?

We are not to have the attitude: "I know him not, he is no friend of mine; why should I trouble myself about him?" These principles of righteousness are brought forward in the New Testament - the Law has changes but the principles remain the same.

Because of the value of human life in the eyes of God we have an obligation to do what we can to show respect for life and teach others to have that same respect. For this reason we must oppose abortion, euthanasia, suicide, and any other evil that is a danger to life.

Remember, "And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen. 1:27).

Seek Ye First...

EDITORS:

Michael Light

Bangs church of Christ
P. O. Box 41
Bangs, TX 76823
(325) 752-6464
E-mail: mclight@verizon.net

Tom Moore

Park Heights church of Christ
P. O. Box 107
Hamilton, TX 76531
(254) 386-3953
E-mail: dspoppy@yahoo.com

Our Purpose

The editors of *Seek Ye First* produce this biblical journal to provide scriptural material dealing with the issues that are currently affecting the church, our families, our nation and the world. Our intent is to challenge souls to return to the "old paths" (Jer. 6:16) for their sole source of authority in religious matters. Our policy is to speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11), encouraging people to study to show themselves approved unto God, enabling them to rightly divide the word (2 Tim. 2:15). We make every effort to deal boldly with the issues that confront Christianity, with no apology, and strive to do so "speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15).

Seek Ye First...

November 12

This work is published quarterly in a joint effort among the editors and those which generously help to support it financially.

If you would like to make a donation to *Seek Ye First*, contact Michael Light. For changes of address or subscriptions contact Tom Moore.

All donations towards this work are greatly appreciated. Please note that every contribution, great or small, is beneficial to the paper.

HOW DOES IMMORALITY AFFECT THE CHURCH?

Michael Light

*If ye will fear the Lord, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord our God: **But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandments of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers...Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart:** for consider how great things he hath done for you. **But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.** The above passage comes from a sermon preached by Samuel to a rebellious generation who had requested – and received – a king "like the nations around them" (1 Sam. 12:15,16,24,25).*

These people of old mirror our generation in many respects. They had a heritage of following God's word and being led by His judges. God was their King and they had blessings and peace as long as they followed His instruction. We too have an abundant, full and great life laid out for us if we follow the Divine blueprint (John 10:10). But, like many today, after some time they seemed to grow bored with God's instructions and turned toward worldliness and the destructive nature of sin began to cause their demise (Prov. 13:3).

The initial problem was that they began to look longingly toward the world. Note their comment to Samuel, *Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge over us like all the nations* (1 Sam. 8:5). There are many things wrong with this statement. First, the age of the prophet has no bearing on the truthfulness of the message. Paul dealt with this on the other end of the spectrum regarding Timothy being young, telling him, *Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity* (1 Tim. 4:12).

Just as these rebellious sinners of old used Samuel's age as an excuse to leave the truth, many in our day try to use either the age of the Bible, or the age of a doctrine to somehow discredit it. 2 + 2 has always been 4 and will always be 4. To argue that we need a "new" answer for a "new" generation is idiocy. The same is true concerning moral truth. The Bible is God given – *All scripture is God breathed...* (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Jesus is the only way that leads to heaven – *I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (John 14:6). And the church is the total sum of all the saved – *And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved* (Acts 2:47).

Far too many in the church are infatuated with what those in the "nation round about us" are doing. Why would a child of God, led by the divine inspired word of God, even begin to think of mimicking what they see in the denominational world? How can we imitate the lost and still be saved? There is no salvation in manmade religion (Acts 17:25). Ignorant worship cannot save (Rom. 10:1-3). The children of old desired a king so they could be like those around them (those who were not following God - hence not saved). Many in the church today have the same attitude – a total disregard for the Bible on all topics.

This attitude very quickly shows itself via immorality. Many congregation today would not be recognized by former members if they were allowed to come back from the grave. Note a few sins that are basically ignored by the supposed people of God in our day.

Immodesty (2 Tim. 2:22) – this takes many forms – shorts dresses and shorts, low cut tops (all ages not just the teens), clothing that is too tight and revealing. Often in cheerleading and sports (especially track and volleyball) the “standard” outfit is not appropriate. Only our spouses should see us in our underwear, not stands full of spectators.

Sexual impurity – fornication and adultery (1 Cor. 6:9-11) are far too common among God’s people – and often not dealt with in a serious fashion by the elders. In Ephesians 5:11, both those that sin and those who hold their tongues about it, are going to be lost.

Ungodly attitudes – either we possess the fruit of the Spirit and the Christian virtues or we do not (Gal. 5:22f; 2 Pet.1:5f). If we truly were spiritual and not worldly in attitude toward God and His word, the above sins would not be an issue.

There are hundreds of other specific sins that could be mentioned that are symptomatic of a church that has slipped into immorality, the result will be damnation on those who linger in the way of the devil. But the answer to it is found back in our original text, *Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart; and turn not aside...For the Lord will not forsake his people for his great name's sake* (1 Sam. 12:20-23).

mclight@verizon.net

HAS SOMEONE STOLEN OUR MORAL TENT?

The story is told of Sherlock Holmes and his trusted companion Dr. Watson as they were on a camping trip. In the middle of the night Holmes awoke and asked, "Watson, would you look up and tell me what you see?" "I see hundreds of thousands of stars," replied Watson. "And what does that mean to you, my dear Watson?" "To me, Holmes, it means that we are most fortunate to inhabit God's great universe as intelligent observers. And although we must be infinitesimally small in His eyes, we are blessed beyond measure with powers of reasoning given to no other creature of God. I guess that's what it means to me. What does it mean to you?" "Watson, it means that while we were sleeping someone has stolen our tent."

It doesn't take a Sherlock Holmes to see the difference in perception in these two men. While thinking in lofty terms Watson failed to see the most obvious problem. While some in the intellectualism of our age marvel at modern advancements in medicine, science, education and technology, they have failed to notice that someone has stolen our tent of moral values right from over us. Without this tent of godly morals and ethics we have no shelter from the raging storms of life. When a generation of people sees no absolutes in morality or doctrine, ethics as autonomous, abomination as "gay," pornography as "art," killing of innocents as "choice," we may conclude that someone has stolen our moral tent.

This Issue's Theme: *Moral Issues Facing the Church (Concerning Death)*

Table of Contents:

Respect For Life Tom Moore	1
How Does Immorality Affect The Church Michael Light	2
Abortion & America: 40 Years Of Slaughter Rick Popejoy	4
Forced Euthanasia Ryan Smithey	6
Self-Euthanasia (Suicide) Jason Rollo	7
FRIENDS OF SYF	8

~~~~~

## *SPECIAL NOTE and REQUEST*

Because of the continual rise in cost of mailing, we are wanting to begin emailing Seek Ye First... to as many as possible instead of using regular mail. If you are willing and able to receive Seek Ye First... by email, please send your name, address, and email address to [dspoppy@yahoo.com](mailto:dspoppy@yahoo.com) and a note so explaining.

Thanks,  
The Editors

# ABORTION & AMERICA: 40 YEARS OF SLAUGHTER

Rick Popejoy

Some six hundred years before Jesus made His appearance upon the Judean scene, a young seventeen year old was called of God to minister to a dying country. It's difficult to conceive a situation more painful. A great man condemned to watch the lingering agony of a sickly, diseased, languished country - his own country. Jeremiah was going to need the determination of purpose; the fortitude of will; and the unwavering firmness of character or his hostile audience, which was relentlessly seeking to intimidate him, would tear him to shreds. Jeremiah had to become an iron pillar to survive. He was forbidden to marry (16:2), and could not attend social gatherings (16:5f). He saw and suffered with the agony of his prophetic doom (9:1; 13:17). He was mocked by his own brethren (20:7f). He was branded a traitor, arrested and tortured (37:11f). His own hometown plotted his demise (11:19, 21). He could not trust anyone, even his own family (12:6). As one man stated, "Jeremiah was a sermon in shoes."

Jeremiah grew up and lived during corrupt times. He summarizes the vices of his day, "Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not" (7:9). The house of God had virtually become a den of robbers (v. 11). Human life was cheap and infants suffered the most (v. 31; cf. 19:4-6). Another faithful prophet of God was hunted down and executed by the tyrant Jehoiakim for no greater crime than preaching the Word of the Lord (26:20-23). Jeremiah refers several times to the sexual orgies which passed for Baal worship in his times (2:20; 5:7). The men of Judah brazenly chased after the wives of their neighbors (5:8). Deceit and lying were so common that no one could be trusted, not even members of one's own family (9:2-6). National leaders all seemed unconcerned (10:21). Religiously, Judah was bankrupt during the time of Jeremiah. Idolatry was rampant (2:10f; 8:2; 10:2ff; 44:15-19). Paganism corrupted the worship of God even at the Temple (7:30). They had been repeatedly assured by their "learned" prophets and priests that the Lord would never allow Jerusalem much less the Temple to be destroyed (6:14).

These horrible and despicable deeds were practiced by *God's people* in the days of Jeremiah. God's own people would take their new born babies and offer them as human sacrifices (Jer. 7:31-32; 19:5-6; 32:35; 2 Chr. 33:6). This practice came right out of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's daughters, in an act of rebellion against both Lot and God said, "let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him" (Gen. 19:32) and that is exactly what they did (Gen. 19:33-35). As a result both daughters had children. The youngest daughter's son became the father of the sons of Ammon (Gen. 19:36-

38). Molech is described as "the abomination of the children of Ammon" (1 Kgs. 11:7). Astonishing how that one sin of indiscretion by one or two, can lead down a slippery slope of surpassing all moral national boundaries.

While the Ammonites primarily sacrificed "post-natal children," it is no coincidence that it is the Ammonites that God condemns in the book of Amos "because they have ripped up the women with child of Gilead, that they might enlarge their border" (Amos 1:13). In other words, they took the children right out of the womb for their own profit. Today we have given the false gods of human sacrifice new names: Career; Convenience; and Money; and have now come full circle in our evil. Today, mothers walk into the slaughter houses of abortion clinics to have their offspring ripped from their bodies so that their careers are not hindered; their conveniences are not disturbed and the money in their bank accounts does not dwindle.

Now that's real progress, rather than seeing righteousness as the pillar that upholds our nation (Pro. 14:34), we now see amenity as that pillar. Righteousness has her benefits (Pro. 14:34). An old proverb states, "When there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty of character. When there is beauty of character, there is honor in the home. When there is honor in the home, there is order in society. And when there is order in society, there is peace in the world." Righteousness eliminates corruption and greed in politics. How does this affect our subject? Abortion is a lucrative business. Those who defend it the most passionately, often have a financial interest in keeping it legal and commonplace. In fact, there is good reason to wonder if they care more about profits than they do about women. Righteousness also creates a moral climate of wholesomeness and produces strong ethical standards. Where there is righteousness, life and property are safe. But national righteousness is not something primarily left to the politicians to be voted on or legislated in. Righteousness comes to a nation when "we the people" demand righteousness of ourselves, first (Mat. 6:33; Col. 3:1-2; Rom. 12:1-2).

In January of 2012 I preached a series of five sermons on Jeremiah 1:17-19 entitled, "Jeremiah, An Iron Pillar". In my sermon delivered on the 39th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, I said,

*"Today, we must speak up for the innocent ones. One of the things that Jeremiah spoke against was the practice of taking their little children and throwing them into the fires at Hinnom (Jer. 7:31-32). A couple of weeks ago in this series I spoke about the moral atrocity of abortion and the upcoming anniversary of Roe vs Wade. One good*

man, almost in tears, met me at the back and ask the question, *What can we do to stop this wrong? Here is my answer to that man (and to all of us): We Must Speak Up! Therefore, I offered this challenge to the congregation. Let me challenge every member of this congregation to join me in a **Speak Up For The Innocent Campaign**. The goal of this campaign is simple: To stop Americans killing of their own children. The plan: that every day we will speak to someone in some form about the innocent children we send to the slaughter houses of abortion clinics in American... nearly 4000 daily! Ask everyone you know to join in this campaign. Write letters to family members, friends, television and radio stations; congressmen, judges, the President. Use every means possible: Through emails; tweets, comments on Facebook or any social network. Flood our communities with the message that we can no longer tolerate this moral massacre... and that we are outraged by the carnage of convenience. Plan to do this with me, every day, for an entire year (January 22, 2-13). Let us rid ourselves of this legacy before the 40th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade."*

I must admit that I was somewhat disappointed at my brethren's response to this subject. As one good sister pointed out on Facebook, "It's amazing how many people, members of the church don't think about this due to believing we can't win. We are the David and this is the Goliath." If the Lord's church develops or maintains a grasshopper complex (cf. Num. 13:33) we will rarely have any impact upon society... if we are not careful, we will lose our savour and become good for nothing (cf. Mat. 5:13). The following article may help in understanding the reason why so many Christians are willing to take a backseat, back burner approach to this horrific display of loathsome behavior.

*America, much like the spirit of an educated Athens, a political Rome and a financially independent Laodicea has anesthetized itself of its spiritual priorities. We wallow greedily and lustfully in materialism and social status. "How will this affect my standing in the community?" is often the cry of the weak minded... Religious people today are obsessed with the identical error, and have advocated not only a walk softly and speak easily stance, but have tossed out the big stick all together... Dullness, insensitivity, and indifference toward the truth and in many cases making no effort at all to understand the truth, has captured the minds of the general society, and we ought to deplore its inroads in to the church. Paul rebuked this spirit in the Jerusalem church in Hebrews 5:11-12... Patients must quickly rouse from anesthesia lest they slip into a death coma and severe measures are taken to prevent this from happening. We must send forth the call to*

*arms of New Testament Christianity before it's too late: That call must ring for our children, our spouses, our loved ones and our brethren to awake out of sleep (Rom. 13:11), to arm ye yourselves (1 Peter 4:1)... The spirit of pacificism is taking the fight right out of the church. Brethren we must reach out beyond our own selfishness and do that which God has called us to do! (Richard Black, An Anesthetized America)*

Well, here we are now following the 40th Anniversary of *Roe vs Wade*.... Are you ready to be an iron pillar? Join us in speaking up for the innocent ones, before it's too late - not too late for them - too late for us - the slaughter must stop!

rickpopejoy@gmail.com

### **THE HARRIS and MOORE EXPEDITION THROUGH THE BIBLE**

**Listen in each Monday at 7:00pm CST on  
KATX 97.7 FM or KNNK 100.5 FM.**

**This is a live call-in talk show discussing  
moral issues and religious topics facing our  
world.**

**You can listen to the program in the following  
ways through:**

**[www.harrisandmoore.org](http://www.harrisandmoore.org)**

**[www.knowthetruthradio.org](http://www.knowthetruthradio.org)**

**TuneIn app (search for knowthetruthradio)**

**Our Motto: You have heard what men have  
said - now listen to what the Bible says.**

**Listen these Radio Programs:**

#### **"Preaching the Word"**

**Speaker Michael Light**

**Each Sunday at 9:00am on KOXE 101.3 FM**

#### **"Back to the Bible"**

**Speaker Tom Moore**

**Each Sunday at 8:30am on KCLW 900 AM**

# FORCED EUTHANASIA

Ryan Smithey

January 22, 2013 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the famous *Roe V Wade* Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in the United States. Those 40 years saw the death of some 55 million babies that never were given a chance to live but also saw the steady shift in the minds of many people—a growing lack of respect for life at any age.

It seems many have forgotten or are ignorant of the fact that God created life. God created male and female; He made them in His image (Gen. 1:27) and He breathed into them the breath of life (Gen. 2:7). The psalmist declared God knew him and formed him in the womb, where he was “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psa. 139:12-16). Solomon recognized the soul came from God (Ecc. 12:7) and Paul reminds us that God is the giver of “life, breath, and all things” and in Him “we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:25, 28).

Yes, God is the giver of life as the psalmist exclaims: “Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture” (Psa. 100:3). Therefore life is not man’s to give and is not man’s to take. The seventh commandment forbade murder (Exo. 20:13). The proverbs writer noted “hands that shed innocent blood” as one of the seven abominations that God hates (Pro. 6:16-19). Murder is one of the works of the flesh that keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God (Gal. 5:19-21), and John records that murderers “have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” (Rev. 21:8). One must learn that God expects man to respect and honor life.

If the proper respect of life is gone, if it is no longer seen as a precious gift of God, then man erroneously believes life can be taken when it fits the perceived notion of good in his mind. That is what has been done with abortion - life can be stopped short for any reason and our nation no longer blushes (Jer. 6:15) and instead calls its sinful actions good and demonizes those who would call for a respect for life (Isa. 5:20).

But what happens when that mindset permeates society and it is applied to any age? What happens when there are those with genetic problems (whether in the womb or not) who are deemed unfit to live or too great a burden on their family and society? When those with physical ailments (whether by birth, disease, or accident) are considered too burdensome on others to take care of? When it becomes too much of a hassle or too expensive to care for the elderly? Will these lives be aborted too? If life in the womb is not sacred, life out of the womb will not long be considered sacred either; it will soon be seen as disposable, that which can be taken at whim rather than protected and treasured.

The term used for such taking of life is euthanasia from

the Greek word meaning ‘good death.’ This is simply a euphemism that tries to make such actions sound merciful; that one’s suffering is relieved or that he is spared from a life that would be too hard for him and others supporting him. It is not used here in reference to providing medicine to help ease one’s pain in their final days, opting out of medical treatments that would cause undue suffering and provide little help, or even deciding not to put one on a machine that would only provide artificial life. But rather it used in reference of an individual, or group of individuals, deciding that one is no longer fit to live, that he is past the usefulness of his life, that he is too great of a burden and so end (euthanize/abort) his life by means of withholding basic care and nutrition or by means of medication to bring about death. There is nothing good about such a death.

No person, government, hospital board, or other group has the right to make such a decision for the life was neither theirs to give or take. Life, whether in the womb, the nursing home, or any stage in between should be valued as a gift from God rather than an inconvenience to be cast off when it does not fit some man-made standard.

When man tries to hold life in his hand (whether his own life or the life of another) and decide who will live and who will die, it is not good. It is sin. It is murder in the eyes of God and God’s people must stand in defense of life as the treasure that God has given and which must be honored and protected.

office@4thstreetcoc.org

## A RIGHTEOUS NATION

“It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord...” - Abraham Lincoln, 1863.

If our nation and our national leaders would have more of this type of attitude - perhaps we could get back to the attitude minted on our currency - “In God We Trust.” Even in the Pledge of Allegiance, that we memorized in youth, is the phrase “...one nation under God.” We all need to do our part in getting God back into our nation. We need to stand up and be heard. We need to fight for morality and righteousness. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

# SELF-EUTHANASIA (Suicide)

Jason Rollo

What is self-euthanasia (or suicide)? What does the Bible say about this subject, in contrast to the feeble thoughts of men? While mankind offers countless opinions on this subject, the real question is this: What does God say? It would seem that such a study would not be necessary and that the Biblical teaching on said subject would be easily known, but in our day and time, the lines of right and wrong (as man views it) seem more and more blurred. However, from God's viewpoint, right is still right and wrong is still wrong (Pro. 14:12)—and murder is wrong! Concerning our subject, a simple Google search recently on the phrase "self-euthanasia" generated nearly 4 million hits. Titles and phrases found within this search, found ridiculous and sad statements like: "10 Fun Ways to Euthanize Yourself, Dying with Dignity, Assisted Suicide, Active Euthanasia: The Deliberate Killing of a Terminally Ill Patient, I'd Opt For Mercy Killing/ Euthanasia: People Need the Right to Choose How to Leave Their Body, Guidelines for Euthanasia, etc." Truly, many in the world are deluded about the horrific nature of suicide and the untold damage it brings about on those left behind, as well as the everlasting consequences to the soul of the one involved in such a crime.

"The term 'suicide' derives from Latin roots, *sui*, 'one's self,' and *caedere*, 'to kill.' It is defined as the killing of one's self with malice aforethought, while in the possession of a sound mind" (W. Jackson). According to Wikipedia the word "euthanasia" is from the Greek meaning "good death" and "refers to the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering." Usually it seems that suicide is generally referenced when a person takes his or her own life, whereas euthanasia (in general) refers to assisted-suicide (i.e., one person aiding/ assisting another person in ending his or her own life. Cf., Doctor assisted suicide). Either way, Biblically speaking both situations (as described above) would constitute MURDER. Murder is defined as the unauthorized taking of human life. No person has the right to murder—themselves and/or another (Rom. 1:29; 1 Pet. 4:15; 1 Jn. 3:15)! While there are instances of authorized killing (i.e., self-defense, capital punishment/death penalty for criminals, honest police work, *etcetera.*), we should always remember that murder is never authorized!

Sadly, however, murder abounds in the world, including suicide/euthanasia. One researched article stated that "Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth—ages 15 through 24." The same penman noted that in 2004, "it was the 11<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S., accounting for 32,439 deaths." One can only imagine what the up-to-date world-wide statistic would be on suicide/euthanasia. Yes, tragically thousands upon thousands each year choose the cowardly act of self-murder to "escape" (as they suppose) their worries, sorrows, grief, and the like. In reality, they merely thrust them-

selves into the Judgment of God (Heb. 9:27)!

The scholarly, Wayne Jackson gives an excellent summation concerning the Biblical view, as pertaining to the study of suicide. He writes:

First, suicide asserts that man is autonomous; that he is his own source of law... The Bible, however, teaches that it is Jehovah who made us, and not we ourselves (Psalm 100:3). All people belong to the Creator (Ezekiel 18:4), and He has the 'right' over them (cf., Genesis 2:7; Romans 9:21)... Second,... life is a gift from God. It is He who gives life to all (Acts 17:25; 1 Tim. 6:13)... Third, suicide is a violation of the divine law of murder. The unauthorized shedding of human blood is an assault upon the image of God in man (Genesis 9:6)... Murder is condemned (Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:9), and suicide is self-murder when perpetrated by a person who is accountable... Fourth, suicide is an act of selfishness... (Ecclesiastes 12:13)... man was created to glorify Jehovah (Isaiah 43:7). Fifth, suicide violates the principle of self-value that is so clearly enjoined in a multitude of Bible passages... (Romans 12:3; Matthew 22:39; Romans 13:10; Ephesians 5:28). [Wayne Jackson, Internet Article: <https://www.christiancourier.com>]

When the Bible student thinks of suicide, he remembers the likes of King Saul and Judas Iscariot. Both men stand out as rebels and selfish individuals, though both seem to have had a good beginning. Consider these two heartbreaking examples of suicide: King Saul and Judas. Wounded in battle the selfish and bitter King Saul tried to get someone to assist him in death (euthanasia) due to his imminent capture. When his armourbearer refused to engage in such action (and rightfully so), King Saul "... took a sword, and fell upon it" (2 Sam. 31:4). Equally as desperate, Judas after betraying Jesus did not seek "true" repentance for his unthinkable deed of betrayal, but instead turned to suicide or self-murder and hanged himself (Matt. 27:3-7; Acts 1:18).

It is indeed sad and regrettable that people, upon reaching the breaking-point brought upon by stress, pain, grief, sorrow, and so forth, sometimes turn to suicide/euthanasia as a means of relief/release from their burdens, instead of turning to the Lord—the ONLY TRUE SOURCE for relieving those burdens (Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Pet. 5:7). It is indeed ironic that the very Lord capable of removing a suicidal person's pain and grief (through the HOPE available IN CHRIST; 1 Tim. 1:1; 1 Thes. 4:13) is the very Lord that person will face (in condemnation) the very moment they murder themselves!

May we ever teach and preach the "glorious gospel of the blessed God" (1 Tim. 1:11) so that men turn to God for the answers about life (as Savior and Lord), and NOT to God (as judge) in an untimely purposefully self-inflicted death.

jason@rolloinsurance.com

# Friends of SYF

## Church Contributions

Bangs Church of Christ  
Bangs, TX

Cold Springs Church of Christ  
Lancaster, TX

Emerson St. Church of Christ  
Magnolia, AR

Hillcrest Church of Christ  
Stephenville, TX

McCloud Church of Christ  
McCloud, OK

Portland Church of Christ  
Portland, TX

Rising Star Church of Christ  
Rising Star, TX

## Individual Contributions

John Brown - Magnolia, AR

Bill & Trevonne Davis - Early, TX

Michael & Carrie Light - Bangs, TX

Cynthia McIntyre - Magnolia, AR

Mr./Mrs. James Meredith - Dixon, MO

Tom & Carole Moore - Hamilton, TX

Eddie & Oleta Pafford - Bangs, TX

Cecil & Rena Robertson - May, TX

## *A Word of Encouragement from the editors of SYF..*

Have you ever seen a chicken hawk go after its prey? The old mother hen is often aware of the presence of the hawk in time to gather her chicks under her wing. With a furious fuss she squawks till her brood is safe by her side. She fluffs out her wings and protects them with her own body. The chicken hawk dives and the old hen turns her body toward him and cocks a wary eye without moving from her children. The predator comes in again for the kill and the mother spreads her wings even wider. A third time he dives only to be thwarted by the determined self-sacrifice of the mother hen. She is too big to be a target and the chicks are too safe to be seized so he flies away.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye

would not!” (Mat. 24:37). Jesus begged the Jews to come under His protective wing – but they would not. Thus, Jesus said, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate” (Mat. 23:38). They had refused the Lord’s protection and were left vulnerable – sure to be destroyed.

Today many are refusing the protective wings of the Lord. All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3) and forgiveness is in Christ (Eph. 1:7). We have protection under His wings (1 Pt. 1:5), and the tools we need to overcome the pains of life (Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 10:13).

But remember we must get under His wings (Gal. 3:27) and remain there (Jn. 14:15; Rev. 2:10). Friends, don’t expose yourself to the “chicken hawks” of this world.

## Seek Ye First...

P. O. Box 41  
Bangs, TX 76823-0041

U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
PERMIT #13  
BANGS TX 76823