

## CONTEMPORARY ISSUES cont

Probably all of us know someone/s who has committed suicide or at least tried to, or has threatened too. (I briefly thought about it and came up with 7 people which I knew! ). You would be surprised how many you would find if you checked the hospital records.

Youth suicide is at an all time high! It is said to be the second leading cause of death among teenagers.

One of the major issues is, 'Is it an unpardonable sin?' ie if a person commits suicide does that mean that they would go straight to hell?

It is interesting to note that the word suicide is not mentioned in the Bible.

We will define suicide as - ' self murder, deliberately taking one's own life'

Let us look at some examples in the Bible:-

- (1) I Sam 31:4  
King Saul - after he had lost the battle
- (2) II Sam 17:23  
Ahithophel - after his counsel was rejected
- (3) Matt 27:6  
Judas - after the priests had rejected his return of the pieces of silver which he had received for betraying the Lord Jesus.  
- he is held up as an example of someone who lost his salvation, however, a careful study of the following scriptures will show that Judas was never saved. John 6:64,70; 12:6; Luke 22:3; John 13:2

WHY?

There are probably a number of reasons behind why someone takes their own life. One of them is, "I hate myself!", however, that is not the case. The Bible tells us that no man hates himself (Eph 5:29). What people hate is what is happening to them or what people are doing to them or what they are doing to hurt other people. Suicide is an act of self love / selfishness.

Here are some of the things which they hate that are happening to them:-  
- guilt

- emotional and mental pain
- hopelessness / despair / no answers
- physical - extended pain

- loneliness - no one cares!
- rejection
- the pain of broken relationships
- shame
- major financial loss
- a pact between two people

### IS SUICIDE AN UNPARDONABLE SIN?

This is taught and believed by some. There is no question that suicide (self murder ) is a sin - Thou shalt not kill Ex 20:13 - that includes killing ourselves.

We need to consider which sins the Lord Jesus died for on the cross. The Bible teaches us that ' the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all ' Isa 53:6; that ' Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures' I Cor 15:3; 'He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world' I John 2:2.

If an unsaved person commits suicide then they would go to hell. Not because of how they died but because they had never trusted the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

If a saved person should commit suicide then they would go to be with the Lord; not go to hell ie, suffer loss of salvation. Think about which sins the Lord Jesus died for on the cross - for a believer it is all of their sins, past, present and future. At the moment of salvation God declares them to be justified; the sin debt is removed forever. Amen!

### HELP FOR THOSE STRUGGLING

Remember there is no life too hopeless for the Lord Jesus to turn around. Point them to the Lord Jesus as the One who can help them - Matt 11:28-30

Be careful of becoming emotionally involved; you may want to 'jump' too!! Don't say "don't worry!"; "other people are worse off than you!" - those sorts of words do not give comfort!

Be a good listener.

Show care and concern and be supportive.