Choose Life

Despair sometimes leads to suicide, but the godly have resources to help them endure. Job

* Wanted to die (6:8-9)
* Felt that his troubles were beyond his strength (6:11-13)
* Did not receive the friendly comfort he needed (6:14)
* Clung to his faith in the Holy One (6:10)

**1. Suicide does not change one’s relationship to God.**

A. The sufferings of the unsaved *are not over*

B. The saved are not *separated from God*

Romans 8:35-39

**2. Suicide is not a rational act.**

It is an irrational act—

A. Based on *false assumptions*

B. When the reason is *clouded or deranged*

When *reason* is impaired,

*responsibility* is diminished

**3. Why should a suffering Christian choose life?**

A. To manifest the *life of Christ*

2 Corinthians 4:7-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

B. To experience *future glory*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

C. To submit to the will of a *faithful Creator*

1 Peter 4:19

D. To experience *fellowship with Christ*

Philippians 3:8-10

**Concl**: You do not live for yourself; you live *for Jesus*.

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. In what ways is a suffering Christian supposed to follow the example of Christ (1 Peter 2:21-23)?

3. If you are suffering from despair, depression, discouragement, defeat, and disillusionment, you are not alone. The people of God have often had to endure such feelings.

Elijah (1 Kings 19)

The Psalmist (Psalm 42, and many others)

4. What part is the church supposed to play on behalf of brothers and sisters who are weighed down by life?

Isaiah 35:3-4

1 Thessalonians 5:14

5. What does God offer His children when they are suffering affliction?

1 Corinthians 15:5

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Matthew 11:28-30