

1 May 2016: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: Study of 1 Samuel - Should Christians Commit Suicide?

Scripture text: 1 Samuel 31:1-13

1. The Bible is very clear that it is a sin for a Christian to commit suicide. For a person to commit suicide, he or she may not even be born again at all. King Saul was such an example throughout his whole life. He was rebellious, stubborn, gave excuses for his sins and showed no signs of repentance at all. In the end, he took his own life.

2. In the battle with the Philistines, Israel was at the losing end and king Saul was being pursued greatly by the Philistines. This was God's judgment for him that he cannot escape. The 3 sons of Saul had been killed by the Philistines and Saul was seriously injured, being shot by a Philistine archer.

3. Saul had a last chance to repent but again he did not take heed to God's judgment. He asked his armour-bearer to kill him as he did not want to face the humiliation of being caught by the Philistines as a prisoner-of-war. Saul's armour-bearer would not dare to kill Saul so Saul took a sword and killed himself. Saul committed suicide as an act of rebellion against God.

4. When a person commits suicide, he broke the 6th commandment "Thou shalt not kill" which includes ourselves. This is because man bears the image of God. When a person commits suicide, it is an act of unbelief and rebellion against God and His promises. He does not hope and trust in God at all in his life.

5. Suicide is never the end of a problem. There are consequences of such a sin. For Saul, after he committed suicide, his armour-bearer also followed him to commit suicide. Then Israel fled from their cities before the Philistines as their king was dead. God's name was also shamed as the Philistines attributed their victory to their idols.