

# VISIONS OF HEAVEN AND HELL BY JOHN BUNYAN

## John Bunyan's Vision and Visit to Hell

March 1st, 2020

Before going into the message today, please read the PDF above of John Bunyan's, "Vision of Heaven and Visit to Hell" and read pages 1-6 to the end of 'Conducted to hell'. The topic of the message today is on suicide and as you read the first paragraph of Bunyan's story, you'll read that he was going to commit suicide, or as he says; 'murder himself'.

According to the World Health Organization's Mental Health, close to 800,000 people die globally due to suicide every year, which is one person every 40 seconds.

If any time we need a vision of heaven and hell it is now. I believe that if a person who is considering suicide as an option, whether individually or assisted, would take a moment to read John Bunyan's Vision of Heaven and Hell, it would stop them in their tracks and prevent them from making a decision to murder themselves. Yes, that is exactly what it is 'murder', let's call it what it is, murder. Some however believe that because it is your own body that you have a right to do what you want to it and even if it is assisted suicide, so long as you consent to it, it is not murder.

In Canada, legislation on medically-assisted dying became legal in September 2016. On February 24, 2020, another bill was put forth to open the door to allow Canadians who are not terminally ill, but who have degenerative diseases like cerebral palsy, to seek assisted death legally. However, this won't stop there, but will eventually move to children, elderly, the mentally ill, etc. In Canada the report for suicide from July 18, 2019 was the following:

- Approximately 11 people die by suicide each day
- Approximately 4,000 deaths by suicide per year
- 1/3 of deaths by suicide are among people 45-59 years
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth and young adults (15-34 years)
- Suicide rates are approximately 3x higher among men compared to women
- This is staggering!

You hear of Christians who have had Christian family members murdered themselves, and in a time of grieving they believe that their family member went on to be with the Lord, but this is not the case.

For the Christian the following scriptures apply;

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** says; *"16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."*

Naturally and humanly thinking, it may sound harsh that God wouldn't have compassion on an individual who destroys their own temple. After all, that person was living hell while alive and that God should be compassionate to them. Apparently not.

God is the giver of life and He only has the right to take it away. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** says; *"<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*

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The collective mindset globally today and even with Christians is that you are your own and you alone have say as to what happens to and in your physical body, but the Apostle Paul says differently. You're to glorify God in your body. When the Holy Spirit came to live in you when you were born again, your body became holy and it's not your own.

**1 John 3:14-16** says; *"<sup>14</sup> We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. <sup>15</sup> Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."* <sup>16</sup> *By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."*

Hating your brother or sister in the Lord is equivalent to murder. It's premeditated murder in your thoughts. So, if whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and doesn't have eternal life in heaven, but rather is sent to hell, what is the difference with self-hatred that leads to suicide? There is no difference.

It's time to stop buying into the lie that it's acceptable for a Christian to commit suicide and believe that they will go to heaven.

That would be like me premediating a murder of someone and asking Jesus to forgive me for what I'm about to do and expect to be forgiven and go to heaven. Suicide is murder and it needs to be called what it is, and those who commit suicide will spend eternity separated from God in hell. There is no grey area or exception.

It's time to stop this demonic lie in its tracks and call it what it is, it's an eternity in hell for those who commit it, it's murder and it's not an option.

God warned Cain to rule over his spirit in **Genesis 4:6-8** where He says; *"6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you **angry**? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." 8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him."*

Cain had heart and anger issues which God called sin and in disobedience to God's admonition, Cain killed his brother Abel. God likewise is warning people today to deal with their anger towards themselves, self hatred. It could stem from envy, pride, not obtaining something in life that you were supposed to get, or from a relationship that went sour and you didn't marry the one that you thought you were going to marry, disappointments that you idolized and made above God ... etc. As a result of these and many more, you've chosen to want to take your life without the right to. But, all along, God is putting His finger on your heart to deal with this area in your life, you have anger and a spirit of murder towards yourself.

Hell is real, eternal and there are no fire exits nor escape.

**1 John 3:11-12** says; *"11 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were **evil** and his brother's righteous."*

If you're wondering why things are not going the way you think they should, you need to check your heart and works to see if they're evil. The book of James confronts and reveals heart issues and what you're idolizing. These idols that you've made that are not of God, where you've suffered disappointment after disappointment, and where God has warned you over and over again to repent of the sin of idolatry, anger or any number of sins, have opened the door to self-hatred with murderous thoughts.

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The Apostle Paul really deals a blow to self-hatred in the life of a Christian where he says the following in **Ephesians 5:29**; “*29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.*” This gives **NO** room for suicide.

In **Galatians 5:22-25**, Paul also says; “*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

**Galatians 5:19-21** talks about the works of the flesh, one of which is murder; “*19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

So what it comes down to is the murder of ones self is sin, and falls in the same category of the sins in Galatians 5:19-21, and if you’re contemplating suicide, you’re committing premeditated murder of yourself and you need to repent of it and ask Jesus to forgive you of this sin.

The devil lies to thousands of people a year that they have every right to ‘check out’, to ‘go on to be with the Lord because you’re a Christian’, that ‘the Lord has compassion because you’re a Christian and He understands’. These are lies and it is murder.

Suicide is a heart issue. It’s sin and has to be addressed as such. Unfortunately, not many preachers or churches agree with this stance and view. Most say the exact opposite. They say that if a Christian commits suicide, it’s not a problem because, ‘once saved, always saved’ and they’ll be in heaven. You see, many churches don’t want to rock the boat and they don’t want to call sin, sin. They don’t want to offend any in their congregations who have lost family member or friends to suicide. But we must. We’re accountable to God for teaching what the Bible says about suicide.

Again, **Galatians 5:21** says; “*of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

Suicide slaps what Jesus did on the cross in the face. In essence it says that what He did on the cross wasn’t enough and that you don’t trust in what He did on the cross for you. Jesus’s will for the Christian is not to commit suicide, but He will not cross over your will. You have to choose and He’s given you His word in the Bible, to fight the fight of faith and resist the temptation of suicide – self murder.

The devil is sly and eases in slowly into the life of a person to commit suicide. It’s a slow, pre-meditated process that he seduces a Christian with. He doesn’t show up with the pitchfork and tail but presents himself as an angel of light to deceive. **James 1:14-15** says; “*14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*”

Jesus says His grace is sufficient for you in times of weakness, you have not been given a spirit of fear but of love, power and a sound mind. He will not allow you to be tempted above and beyond that which you are able, but will always make a way of escape.