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Dear Associates and Friends,

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Two doctrinal articles are presented to you this month: “[Suicide in the Bible](#)” and “[Fear in Scripture](#).” These articles relate to each other. Certainly, suicide or attempted suicide in our world today is an increasing phenomenon. Suicide comes from fear of the future or from despair of past actions. Judas for example had justifiable regret and anguish over his betrayal of Jesus and he killed himself.

The Fear of Death

Fear of death comes naturally. Jesus feared His impending death by crucifixion. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked God His Father to provide another way for Him to fulfill His Father’s will:

“My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry you here, and watch.’ And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible unto you; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what you will.’ ...

‘The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.’ And again he went away, and prayed, and spoke the same words.”

• *Mark 14:34–36, 38–39*

Jesus feared death because, as He said, **“the flesh is weak.”** This statement applies not only to His disciples who were with Him and could not stay awake; it also tells us about His own fears because His **“flesh is weak.”** Hebrews 5:7–8 tells us **“in the days of his flesh”** Christ prayed because He feared death. Luke tells us:

“... there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

• *Luke 22:43–44*

That is how fearful Jesus was. It is okay for us to be fearful also, but we should be fearful of proper things, such as death, a great enemy which will be abolished (1 Corinthians 15:26; 2 Timothy 1:10). In spite of His fears Jesus resolved to go through with the crucifixion according to His Father’s will (Mark 14:36). Because of Christ’s act on our behalf, we should no longer fear:

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but [the spirit] of power, and [the spirit] of love, and [the spirit] of a sound mind. ... [and if necessary] be you partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.”

• *2 Timothy 1:7–8*

Yes, we are still flesh, which is weak and subject to fears, but with God’s Spirit we should approach the thinking of the apostle Paul. Toward the end of his life, Paul actually celebrated his future coming death:

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot [know] not. For I am in a strait betwixt [between the] two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”

• *Philippians 1:21–23*

From the knowledge he was given by Christ (2 Corinthians 12:1–7; Galatians 1:11–12), Paul had great

confidence in his future resurrection to be with Christ and His Father. We should have the same confidence.¹

In the future, there will be people who will wish themselves to be dead. One instance will be when the fifth angel blows his trumpet in Revelation 9:6. As Paul wrote, **“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”** (Hebrews 10:31).

This month’s two articles highlight the very current issues of suicide and fear in societies around the world. Even at the beginning, Adam was afraid (of YHWH) after he sinned (Genesis 3:10), just as Cain was afraid of punishment after his murder of Abel (Genesis 4:14). Their fear came from fear of God’s punishment.

At the end of the age, people will seek death when Christ returns because of the coming punishments from God during the Day of the Lord, the Day of Wrath (Zephaniah 1:14–18; Revelation 6:16–17). Yet, when the eons have ended, all tears will be wiped away (Isaiah 25:8; Revelation 7:17, 21:4), **“that God may be all in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:28), and all mankind will be saved in accordance with God’s will:

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

• *Isaiah 46:9–10*

“Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

• *1 Timothy 2:4–6*

“For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. These things command and teach.”

• *1 Timothy 4:10–11*

“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

• *Ephesians 1:10–12*

God’s will is supreme. He has predestinated you to learn things even the wise of the world do not know, and that includes biblical scholars who have knowledge, but not understanding given by God (Matthew 13:11; Luke 8:10). Some may say I connect verses together to weave a tale, but I am not doing that. The contexts of the verses above show God’s will can be opposed, but not thwarted. **All** things work according to His purpose and the counsel of His will. **All** children of Adam will become children of God through Christ the last Adam. **All** will celebrate God’s glory with Christ our Elder Brother. This includes you and every other human being.

“Let everything that has breath — praise YHWH!

Praise you YHWH!”

• *Psalms 150:6*

Thank You

We hope these two articles will inform you and comfort you. We rely on your continued financial support, as God leads you to do. We pray God will bless you for helping ASK. If you have not given to us before, I hope you will begin to do so. I think the production of solid biblical and historical information has earned your trust and funding so we can continue to serve you all. Thank you.

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¹ Paul at present is dead, “asleep,” a biblical term describing the state of the dead (Acts 7:60; 1 Corinthians 15:6, 18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 15; and 2 Peter 3:4). Paul is dead and not alive in some spiritual place or in a nonphysical state of being.