

CLEAR THE AIR Study Guide

SERMON 1: “EUTHANASIA, SUICIDE AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT”

Study Guide Questions:

WORD (A Time for Admonition):

1. What is the common understanding of people around you regarding euthanasia (“mercy killing”), suicide, and capital punishment? Cite examples or instances of any of the three issues based on the Bible (*cf. 1 Samuel 31:1-6; 1 Kings 19:1-9; Jonah 4:1-11; Matthew 27:1-5; Acts 16:27-28; and Matthew 27:32-35; John 8:3-5*) and your experiences. What is your stance on these controversial ethical issues?
2. Does God approve euthanasia, suicide, and capital punishment? Which among the three is murder as prohibited in the 6th commandment (*Exodus 20:13*) and “justified killing” as administered publicly by the state (*cf. Roman 13:1-5; Numbers 35:30-31*)? How does God value life in Genesis 9:5-6?
3. What causes people to commit murder (*physician-assisted or personal murder*) and how can it be avoided? When is capital punishment today considered “justified killing” and when it is not?

WALK (A Time for Accountability):

1. Is there a sin you need to confess to God right now? (*Sins of commission: performed or allowed physician-assisted suicide; attempted to commit suicide or neglecting one's own health. Sin of omission: not praying for our government.*) Is there a truth you need to believe from God's Word? Read *Psalms 119:156; 42:11; and 1 Tim 2:1-2*.
2. Has your life taken a discouraging turn lately due to financial reverses, physical pain, or depression? Does God seem to care at all in your struggle? How can the group pray for you?
3. What aspects of our present administration do you find most difficult to accept in terms of upholding justice? How can we pray for our government?