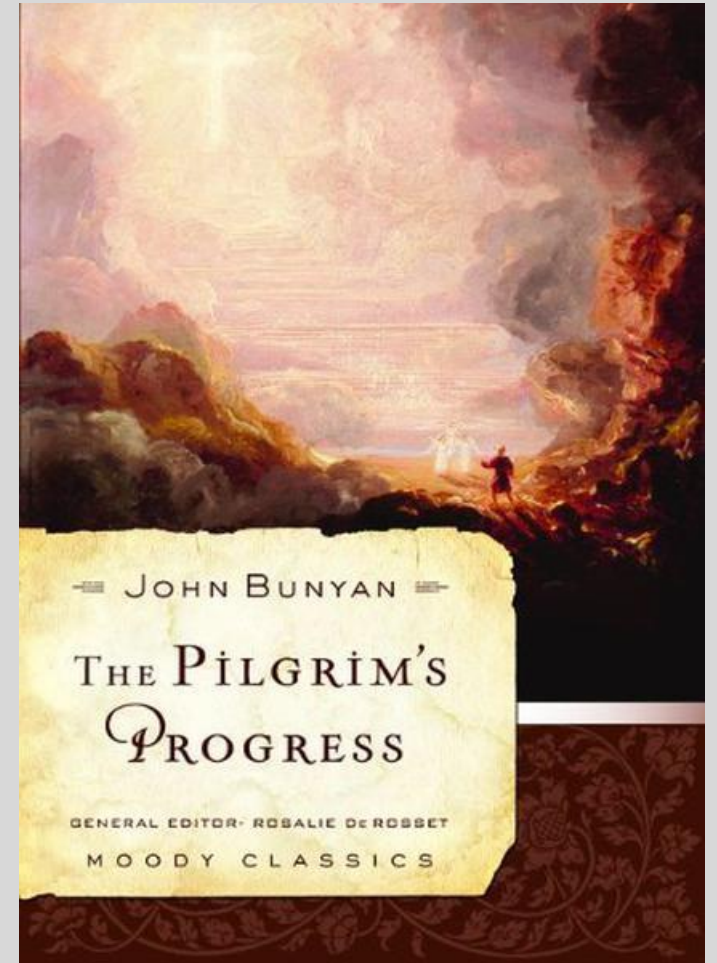
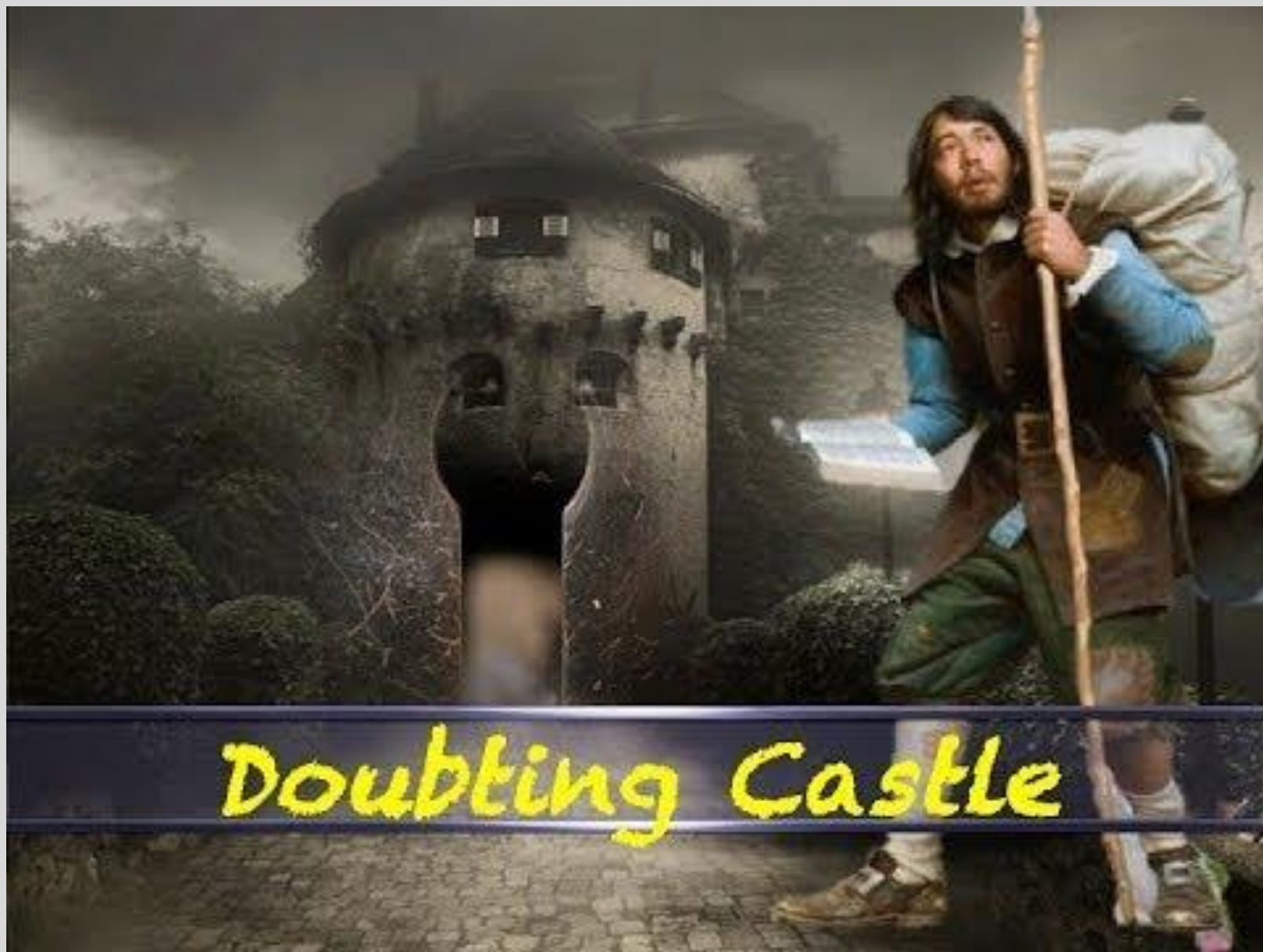




SUICIDE

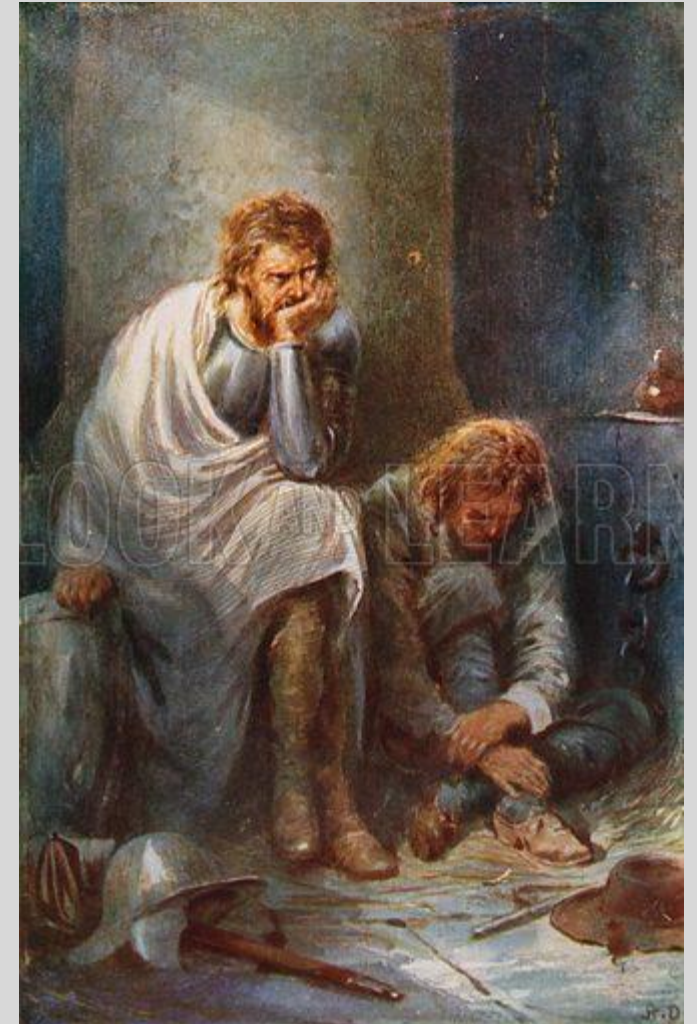
When Dying Seems Better Than Living





From Hopeful to Christian, *The Pilgrim's Progress*

"...for one to kill himself is to kill body
and soul at once."



Recent Statistics on Suicide

- The 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.
- In 2019, almost 50,000 people committed suicide and 1.4 million attempts
- Every day, 130 people take their own life
- The leading cause of death among teenagers?

Recent Statistics on Suicide

- Only 41% of pastors feel well-equipped in suicide prevention
- 1 out of 3 people in the church have a family member or friend take their own life

Church History and Suicide

- **Early church** – mainly practiced by the wealthy; viewed as sinful, based on 6th Commandment
- Funeral services not held for suicides
- Augustine (354-430) – no justification for it (*The City of God*)
- Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) – a sin because it violated natural law, moral law, and God's divine law (*Summa Theologica*)

Church History and Suicide

- **Reformation** – Luther called it a work of the devil
- **Puritans** (16th century) – said it was submitting to the devil's desires
- **1800s** – An understanding of mental illness led to the church becoming more compassionate
- **1900s** – Funerals for suicides began

Seven Lies About Suicide

1. Suicide is only caused by depression.
2. People who talk or think about suicide will do it.
3. Christians don't commit suicide.
4. Once suicidal, always suicidal.
5. Suicide can be in your DNA.
6. Suicide is someone else's fault.
7. The Bible doesn't address suicide.

II Peter 1:3

*"His divine power has granted to us all things
that pertain to life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him who called us to
his own glory and excellence,"*

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

We are like God

- in the communicable attributes
- in reasoning ability and consciousness
- in authority and dominion

Deuteronomy 32:39

*See now that I, even I, am he,
and there is no god beside me;
I kill and I make alive;...*

Ezekiel 18:4

*Behold, all souls are mine;
the soul of the father as well as the soul of the
son is mine...*

Matthew 10:29-31

*²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny?
And not one of them will fall to the ground apart
from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your
head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore;
you are of more value than many sparrows.*

Psalm 139:13-16

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
2. Our bodies are not our own (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
2. Our bodies are not our own (I Corinthians 6:19-20).
3. God's Word answers life's difficult questions
(Psalm 119:105; 121:1-2; Hebrews 4:12).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
2. Our bodies are not our own (I Corinthians 6:19-20).
3. God's Word answers life's difficult questions (Psalm 119:105; 121:1-2; Hebrews 4:12).

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ² My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Hebrews 4:12

*For the word of God is living and active,
sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing to the division of soul and of spirit,
of joints and of marrow, and discerning the
thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

4. A relationship with God generates hope (Psalm 42:11; 62:5-8; Romans 5:2-5).

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.*

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

4. A relationship with God generates hope (Psalm 42:11; 62:5-8; Romans 5:2-5).

*⁵ For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him. ⁶ He only is my rock and my
salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. ⁷ On God rests
my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is
God. ⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your
heart before him; God is a refuge for us.*

Romans 5:2-5

² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Charles Spurgeon, *Finding Peace in Life's Storms*



"Our God does not intend His people to be shipwrecked. However, we would be shipwrecked and lost if we could not be held fast in the hour of temptation. Beloved, if every wind of doctrine whirled you about at will, you would soon drift far...

Charles Spurgeon, *Finding Peace in Life's Storms*



"...away from the truth as it is
in Jesus and your faith would
be shipwrecked.

But you cost your Lord too
much for Him to lose you.
He bought you at too great a
price and values you too
much to see you broken to
pieces on the rocks.
Therefore, He has...

Charles Spurgeon, *Finding Peace in Life's Storms*



"...provided a glorious safeguard for you so that when Satan's temptations, your own sinful nature, and the trials of the world attack you, hope may be the anchor of your soul, both sure and steadfast."

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

4. A relationship with God generates hope
(Psalm 42:11; 62:5-8; Romans 5:2-5).
5. Murder is sin (Exodus 20:13).

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention

Suicide: death from injury, poisoning or suffocation where there is evidence (either explicit or implicit) that the injury was self-inflicted and that the decedent intended to kill himself or herself

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

4. A relationship with God generates hope (Psalm 42:11; 62:5-8; Romans 5:2-5).
5. Murder is sin (Exodus 20:13).
6. God has given us the strength and spiritual resources for every situation (1 Corinthians 10:13; Jeremiah 32:17).

I Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Jeremiah 32:17

*Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens
and the earth by your great power and by your
outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.*

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

4. A relationship with God generates hope (Psalm 42:11; 62:5-8; Romans 5:2-5).
5. Murder is sin (Exodus 20:13).
6. God has given us the strength and spiritual resources for every situation (I Corinthians 10:13; Jeremiah 32:17).
7. Jesus paid the penalty for sin and can forgive all sins (Micah 7:18-19; Isaiah 43:25; I John 1:9).

Micah 7:18-19

¹⁸ Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.

¹⁹ He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Isaiah 43:25

I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

I John 1:9

*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*