

SPIRITUAL SUICIDE

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Hard to imagine a Christian doing anything that would cause his own spiritual destruction.
- B. But God's people are killing themselves spiritually?
- C. Not talking about destroying the church as a body, but destroying ourselves as individual Christians
- D. "Suicide" comes from Latin: means literally self-killing. Two words combined: latter part means to kill: pronoun preceding it means self or literally to kill one's self
- E. Bible talks about those who do this. Not dealing with this from the physical standpoint, but from the spiritual
- F. Look at and be aware of some avenues through which this can be accomplished and do our best to avoid them.

DISCUSSION:

I. DROWNING OURSELVES - PIERCING OURSELVES 1Tim 6:6-10

- A. Jump into water of materialistic affairs of this life
 - 1. Not those who "are rich"
 - 2. But those who "WILL BE" rich
- B. Turning the sword of wrong priorities on ourselves
 - 1. We must remember that man is more than material
 - 2. Man has something that will live eternally and that is what must receive top priority
- C. Examples of materialism in our society from a survey in Tampa Tribune Jan 30, 1990. What happens on an average day in this country? (this was 30 years ago)
 - 1. \$46,575,342.00 on beauty related goods & services
 - 2. \$1,668,000.00 spent on hairspray
 - 3. According to a recent survey the total spent in a year on entertainment was \$158 billion - \$100 billion on sports in past 12 months
 - 4. Lottery tickets \$220,000,000. per day (fairly current statistic)
- D. Sample of the self-seeking, pleasure-seeking society we have become, which includes many children of God
- E. Not necessary to become a wealthy person to be guilty of what 1Tim 6 is discussing

II. CONTRACTING DEADLY SPIRITUAL DISEASES 1Cor 11:30

- A. There are physical diseases that get such a hold on the body that nothing can be done to stop them
- B. Bible talks about people sick spiritually Heb 6:4-6
- C. Passages showing consequences of sin in our lives
 - 1. Prodigal son Lk 15:24,32 "dead, now alive"
 - 2. Note Prov 5,6,7:21-27 Unaware that this would take his life Jas 1:13-15

III. STARVATION - NOT FEEDING ON GOD'S WORD 1Pet 2:2

- A. People destroy themselves physically thru starvation
- B. Christians deprive themselves of nourishing food of God's word that will keep them alive spiritually
- C. Missing worship starves individuals of spiritual food
- D. Strong, healthy Christians are not the ones who regularly and habitually miss the services
- E. It is the devoted person who becomes strong, just being in a building not the only thing that makes one strong, but do you know anyone who is strong that does not assemble regularly Heb 10:25,26
- F. Dead Christians Rev 3:1,2,14-16

IV. POISONED ATTITUDES OR MINDS

- A. Example of lady who gradually poisoned her children husbands, and possibly her parents by feeding them small amounts of arsenic
- B. Attitudes of our hearts sometimes become poisoned and can destroy ourselves as well as others
- C. Things as hatred, selfishness, envy, etc Prov 14:30
- D. Note Paul's list in Gal 5:19-21 several have to do with attitudes of heart and are not outward overt acts

V. FALSE TEACHERS 1Tim 6:3-5

- A. Kind of teaching that people listen to can either save them or condemn (kill) them
- B. Depends on what kind of teaching we receive and what our attitude is toward that teaching
- C. Doting (obsessed) (diseased, sick)
- D. People today don't think that it makes any difference what we teach or believe
- E. Contend: only thing making difference is accepting Jesus as Lord and they do not comprehend Lordship
- F. If any man teach otherwise - consent not to wholesome words 1Tim 6:3-5
- G. We cannot afford to embrace the idea that we can accept into fellowship all who have been baptized into Christ, without questioning what they teach

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must remind ourselves that we have responsibility as an individual in what we teach or accept that is being taught.
- B. No one can say that it is someone else's fault that they are lost eternally
- C. The means of being "sound" or well spiritually has been provided by God and it is available to each one of us
- D. Note what Paul said in Acts 13:46 "thrust it from you - judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life."