

EUTHANASIA

The term euthanasia is yet another euphemism for murder. We have established the Scriptural principle for the protection and preservation of life, and anything that contravenes it is contrary to the Law of God. Euthanasia is a term literally meaning good or easy death. (eu -Greek for good or easy, and thanatos, Greek for death.) It is used to describe so-called *mercy killings*, where an individual usually suffering from terminal illness has his life terminated by artificial means -a lethal injection, or an overdose of morphine.

Euthanasia is carried out in the name of mercy, and compassion, but we must not lose sight of the fact that to wilfully end a life other than the exceptions of scripture (self-defence, capital punishment, and just war) is murder and breaks the 6th commandment.

The Devil's great delusion in the area of euthanasia is that most of not all who request it are all unsaved and unprepared to meet their Maker. The advancement of the day of their death, rather than release them from pain and suffering -their intention, simply opens for them the door of eternal pain and suffering in Hell, and closes the door on any final opportunities for them to repent and get right with God.

Euthanasia is not legal in this country, but there is an increasing call to make it so. Only a few years ago doctors in the UK were virtually all opposed to euthanasia, but in a recent survey more than half of British General Practitioners would be in favour this practice. Euthanasia has been legal in Holland for some years. The consequences have not been good. With such demand on financial resources in hospitals there is concern that terminally ill patients and those who will require long-term and expensive treatment will have their lives ended to save resources.

The Bible does have something to say on the subject. In 2 Samuel chapter 1 an incident is recorded of an Amalekite who came to David with Saul's crown and bracelet. He alleged he had come across Saul during the battle on Mount Gilboa. He said that Saul had fallen on his sword in order to commit suicide rather than be captured by the Philistines. Saul was mortally wounded, but still alive. He was in pain and requested the Amalekite to kill him. The Amalekite told David that he fulfilled Saul request and killed him. Later that day David executed the Amalekite for the murder of Saul.

This was an example of euthanasia, or mercy killing. Saul was terminally ill. He was in great pain. He requested someone to help him die. The request was granted, but that man was found guilty of murder and executed. It is conceded that some commentators believe that the Amalekite was not telling the truth -that Saul was already dead when he found him, and that he only told the story so that he might look good in the eyes of David, as having fulfilled the dying wish of King Saul. Regardless of this, the fact remains that on his testimony of acceding to a request for euthanasia he was found guilty under the law and executed for murder.

There can be no justification for taking a life, either our own or that of anyone else.