

**Words of Wisdom** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [WECO FM 101.3](#) and [The Fellowship Room](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

## **5-08-2017 Useless "Religion"**

Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you' (**Acts 17:22-23**).

"Religion" literally means "fearing some deity," in this case, idols. Some people are "very religious" about the "gods" of: power, sex, money, sports, themselves, or things. "Worship without knowing" the God of Heaven and Earth and the Bible is vain.

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless (**James 1:26**).

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## **5-09-2017 Suicide Or Salvation? (1)**

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

Judas saw the Jesus condemned whom he knew was "innocent," and was "remorseful" (a word showing pain afterward). Jesus had used this very word to show a good result:

"But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. (**Matthew 21:28-29**).

Godly sorrow produces repentance to salvation (**2 Corinthians 7:10**).

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### **5-10-2017 Suicide Or Salvation? (2)**

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

When Judas realized how bad his betrayal of Jesus was, he turned to the wrong people. He tried to give back the betrayal money to the people he had made the bargain with, but they refused. Remember a lesson from Judas Iscariot: the people who help you sin will not be the people who help you reform! The fleeting moment when Judas' conscience hurt was met with coldness by the people who were condemning an innocent Jesus!

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### **5-11-2017 Suicide Or Salvation? (3)**

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

The money Judas thought meant so much before this moment, must have sounded cheap, indeed, as it jingled on the floor. Truly,

The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows (**1 Timothy 6:10**).

And in the process, have ruined many innocent lives!

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches (**Proverbs 22:1**).

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### **5-12-2017 Suicide Or Salvation? (4)**

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.'

And they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it!' Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself (**Matthew 27:3-5**).

Suicide is only an option to someone who gives up on God. Forgiveness is with God.

If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared (**Psalms 130:3-4**).

Christians must,

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Whatever you have done, if you repent, God can forgive it, and Christians must forgive you.

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