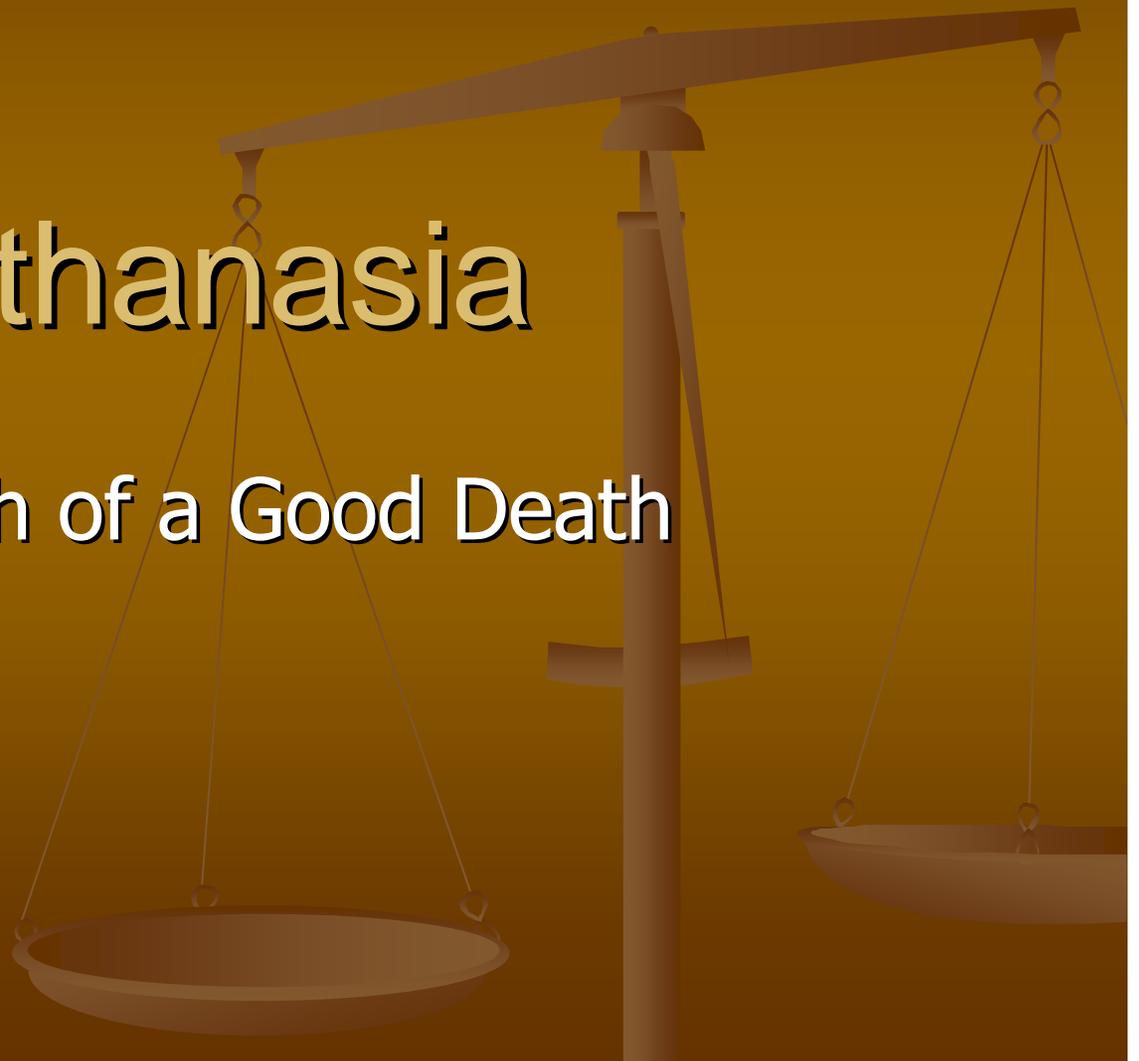


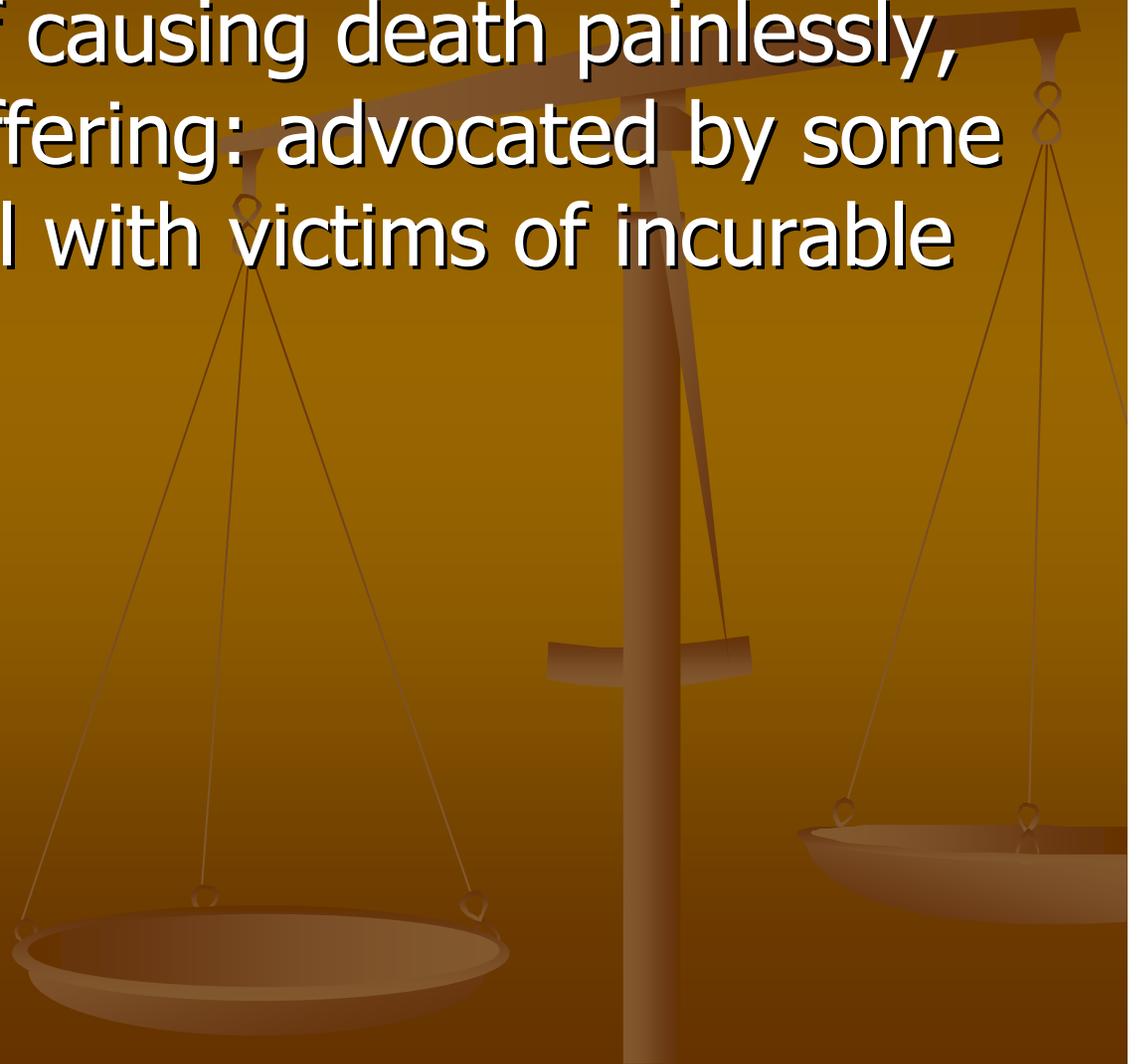
Euthanasia

In Search of a Good Death



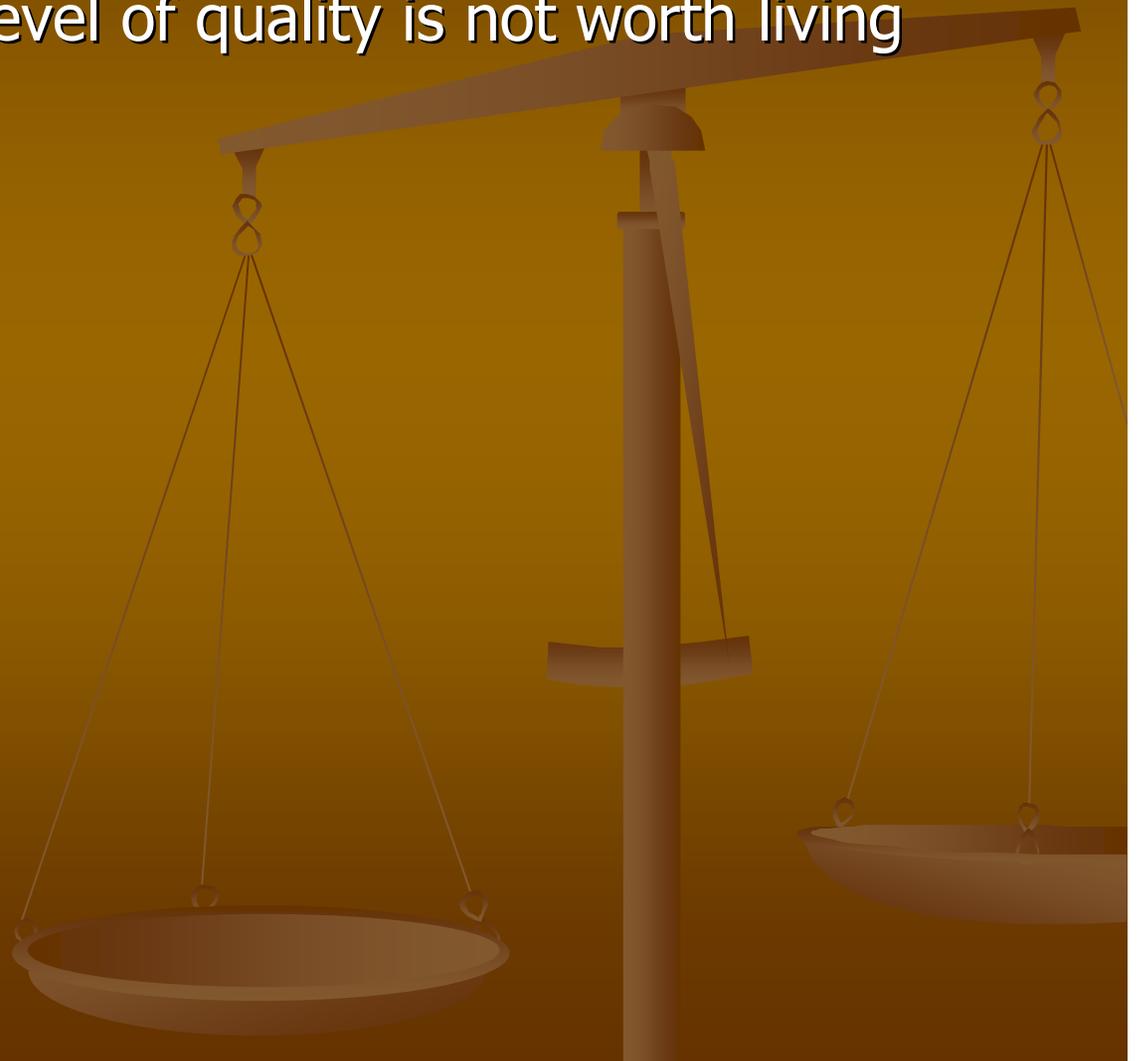
What is Euthanasia?

“Act or method of causing death painlessly, so as to end suffering: advocated by some as a way to deal with victims of incurable diseases.”



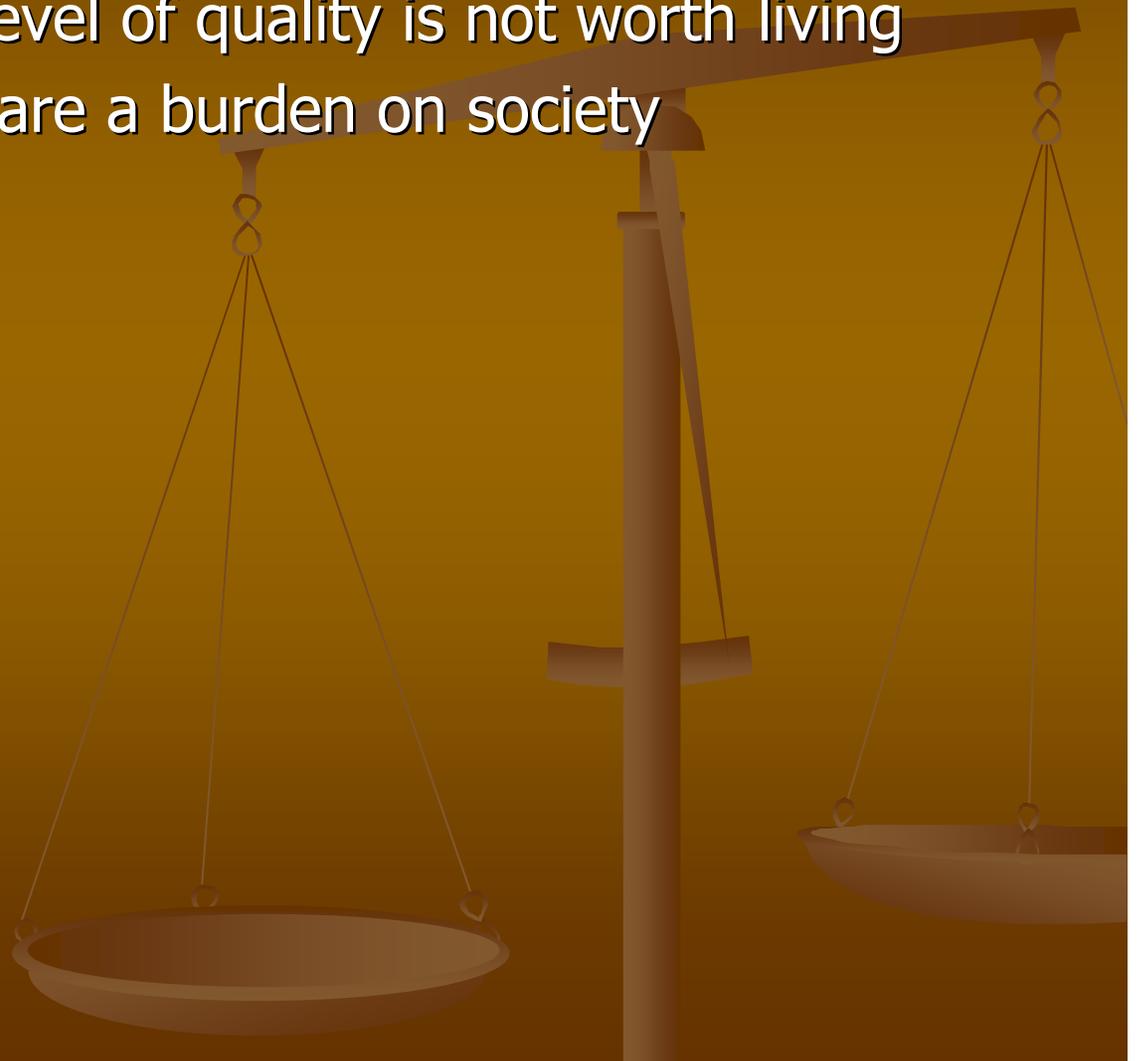
Arguments For Euthanasia

- Life below a certain level of quality is not worth living



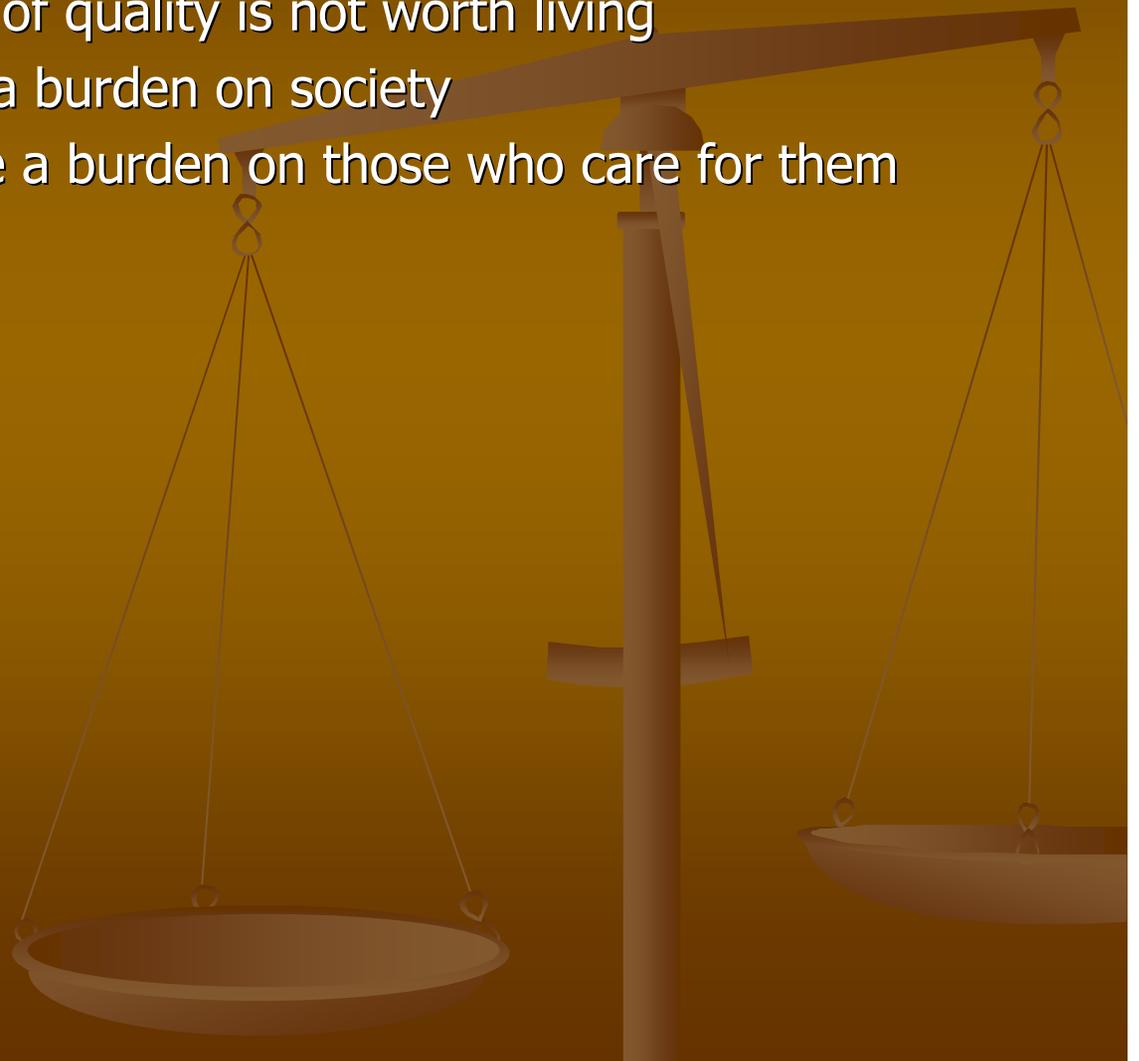
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- Life below a certain level of quality is not worth living
- Non-productive lives are a burden on society



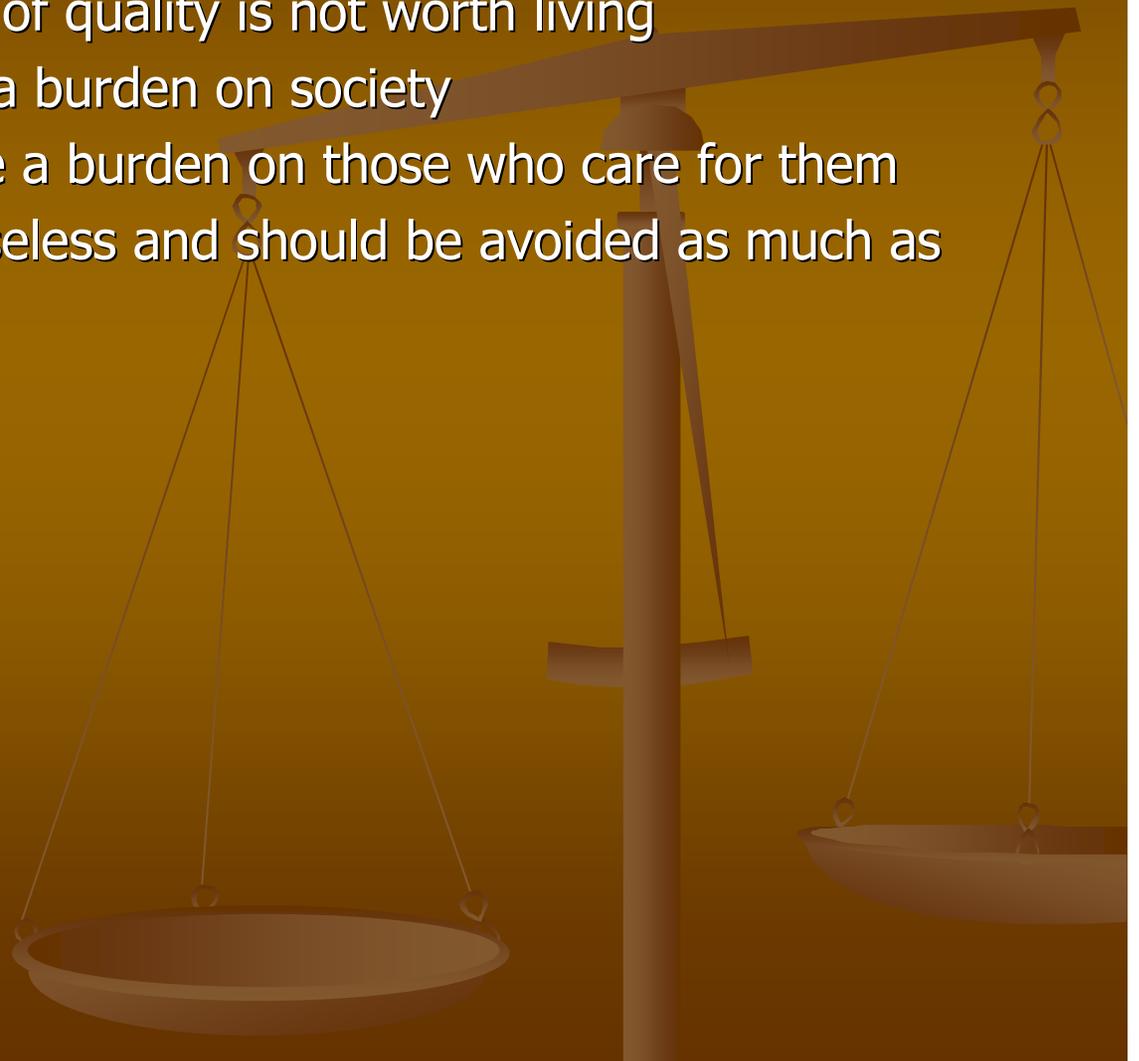
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- Sick/Disabled persons are a burden on those who care for them



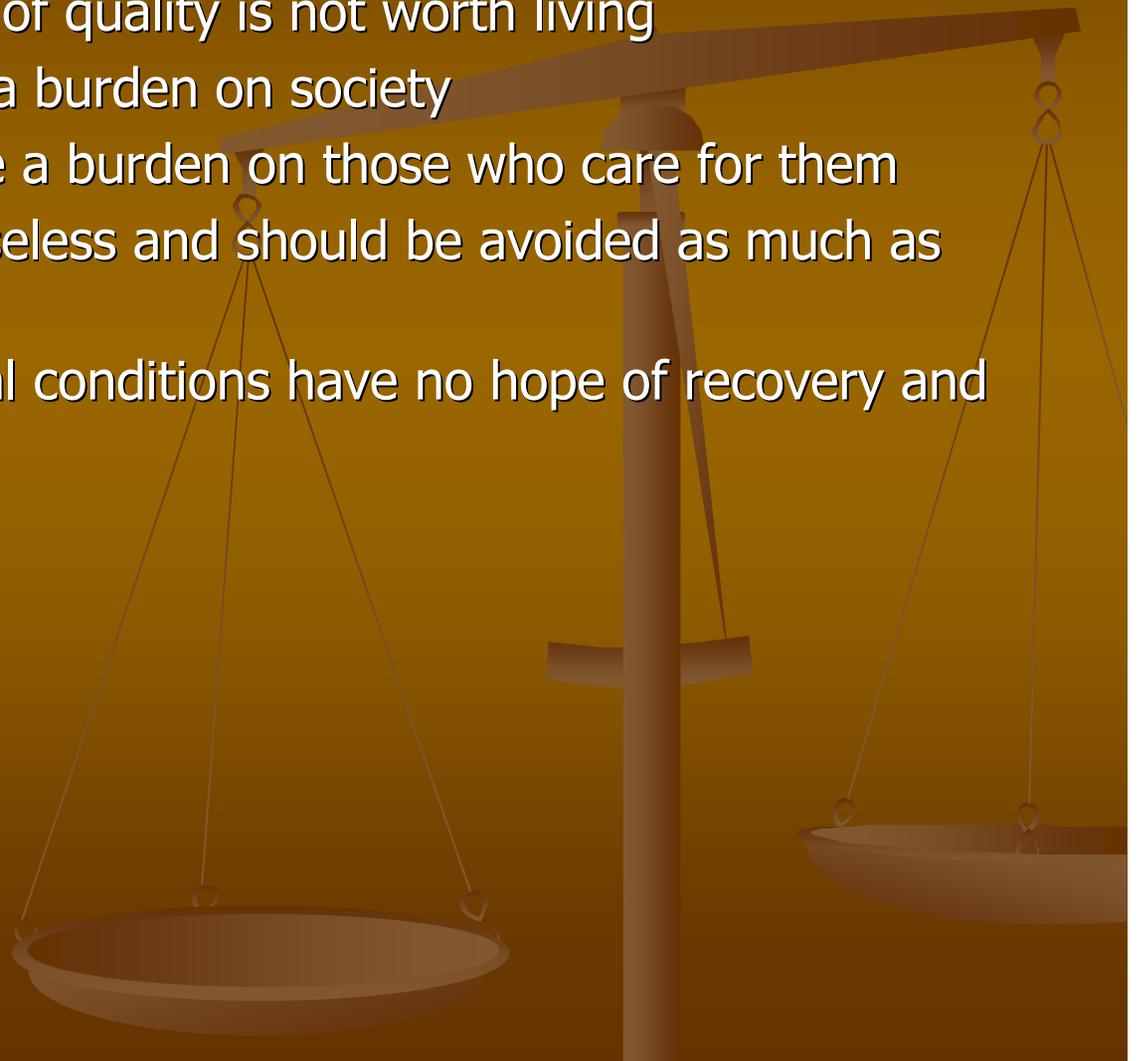
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- Pain and suffering is senseless and should be avoided as much as possible



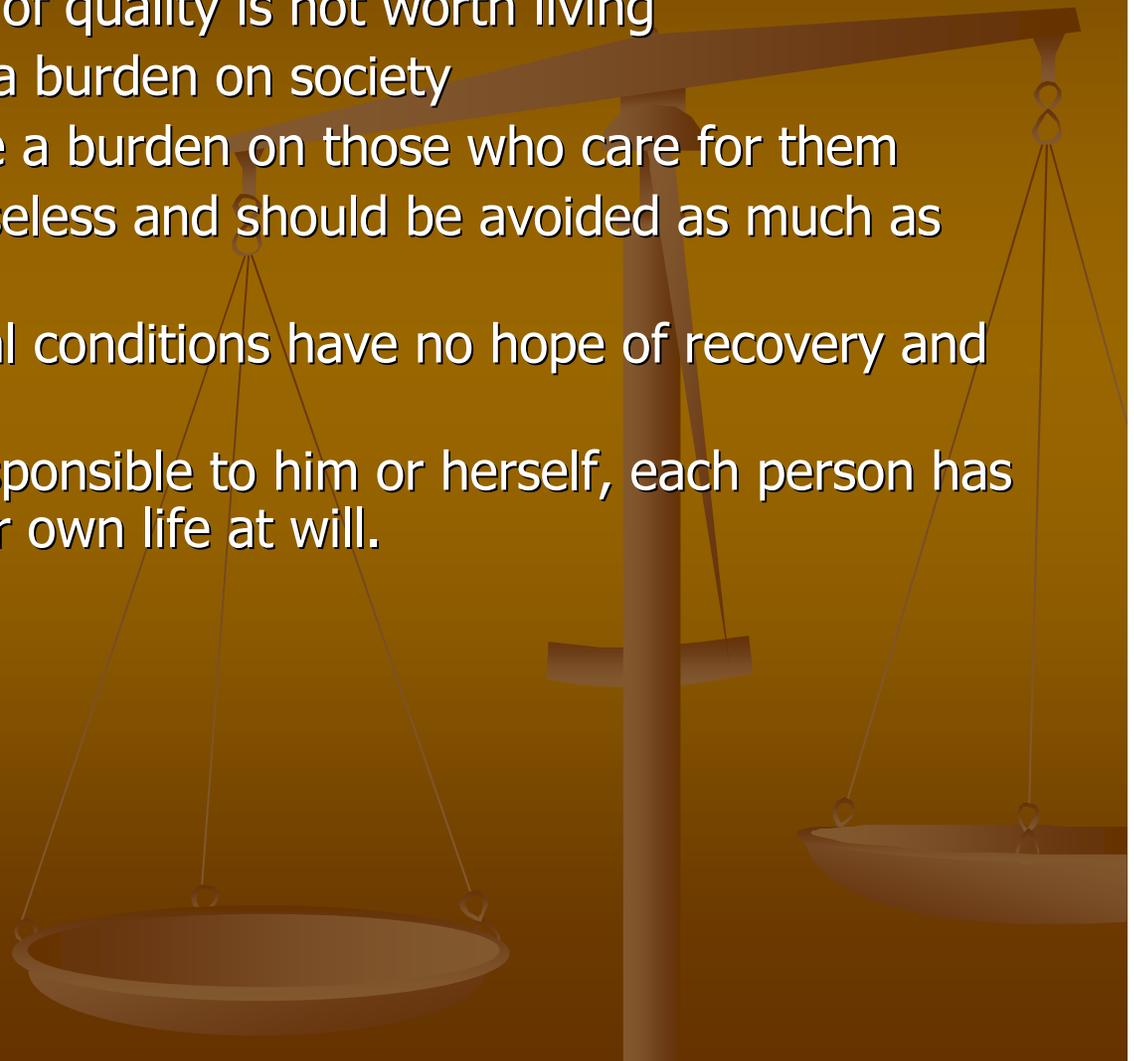
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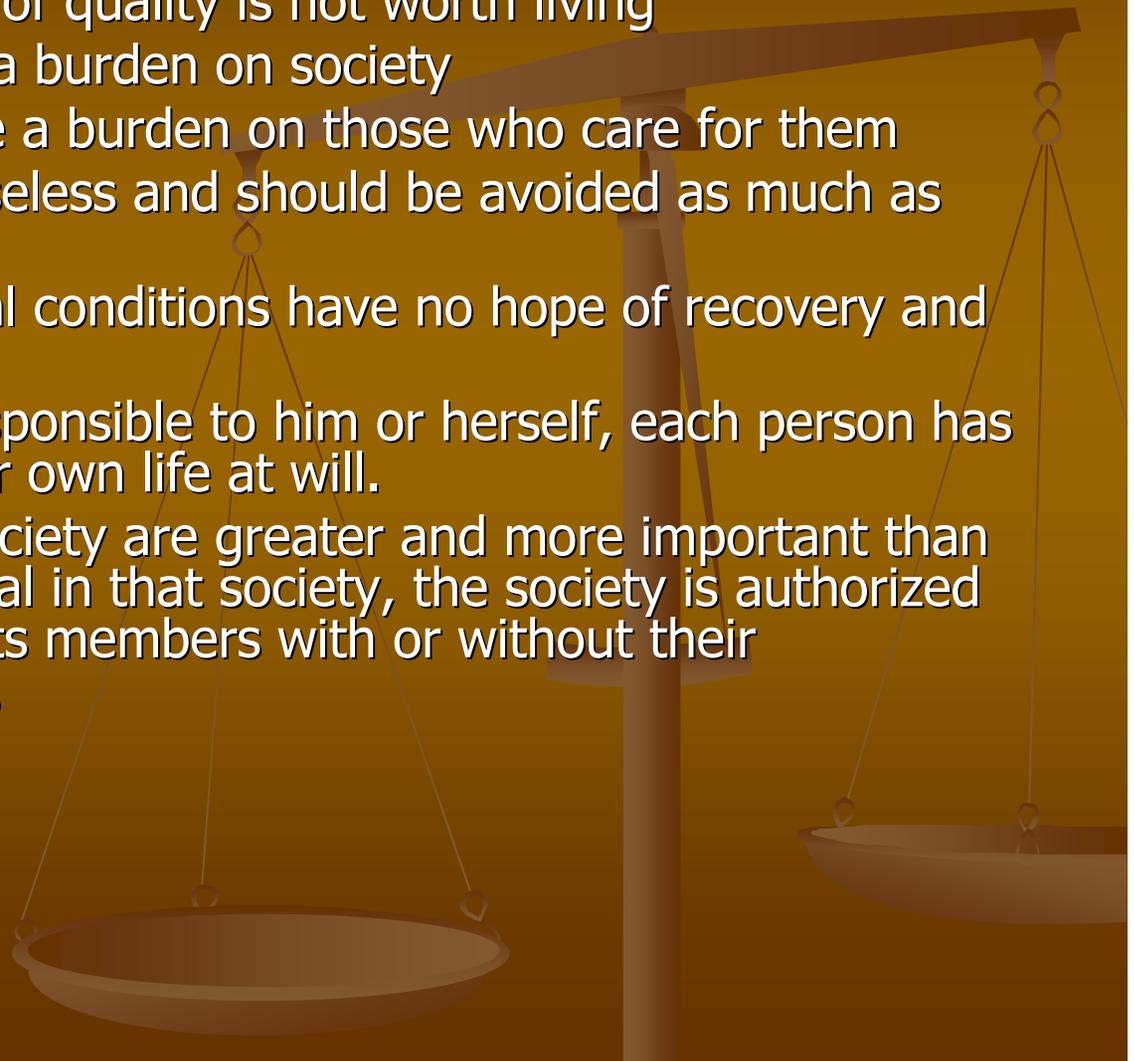
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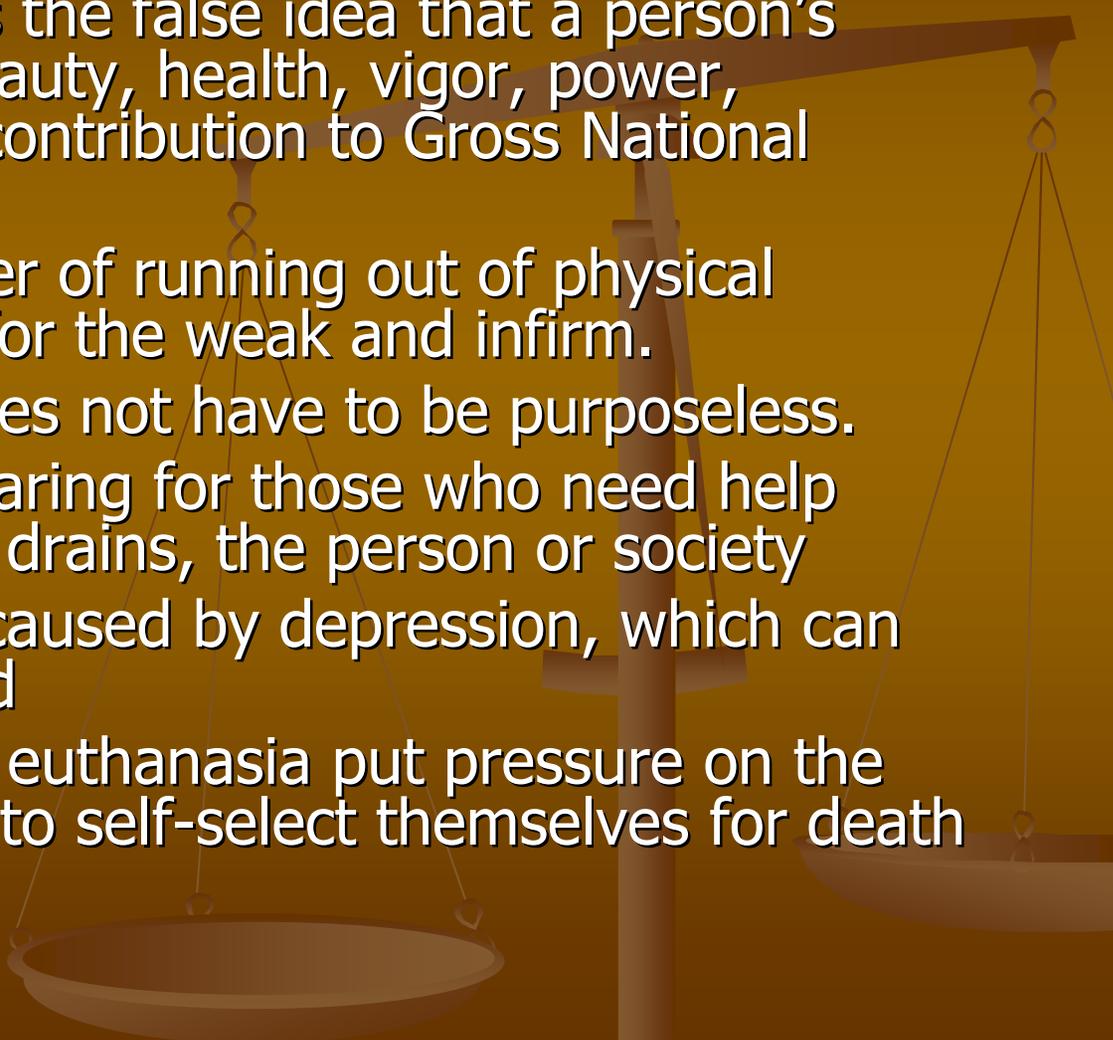


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- Some physical and mental conditions have no hope of recovery and should be terminated
- Since a person is only responsible to him or herself, each person has the right to end his or her own life at will.
- Since the needs of the society are greater and more important than the needs of any individual in that society, the society is authorized to end the life of any of its members with or without their knowledge or permission.

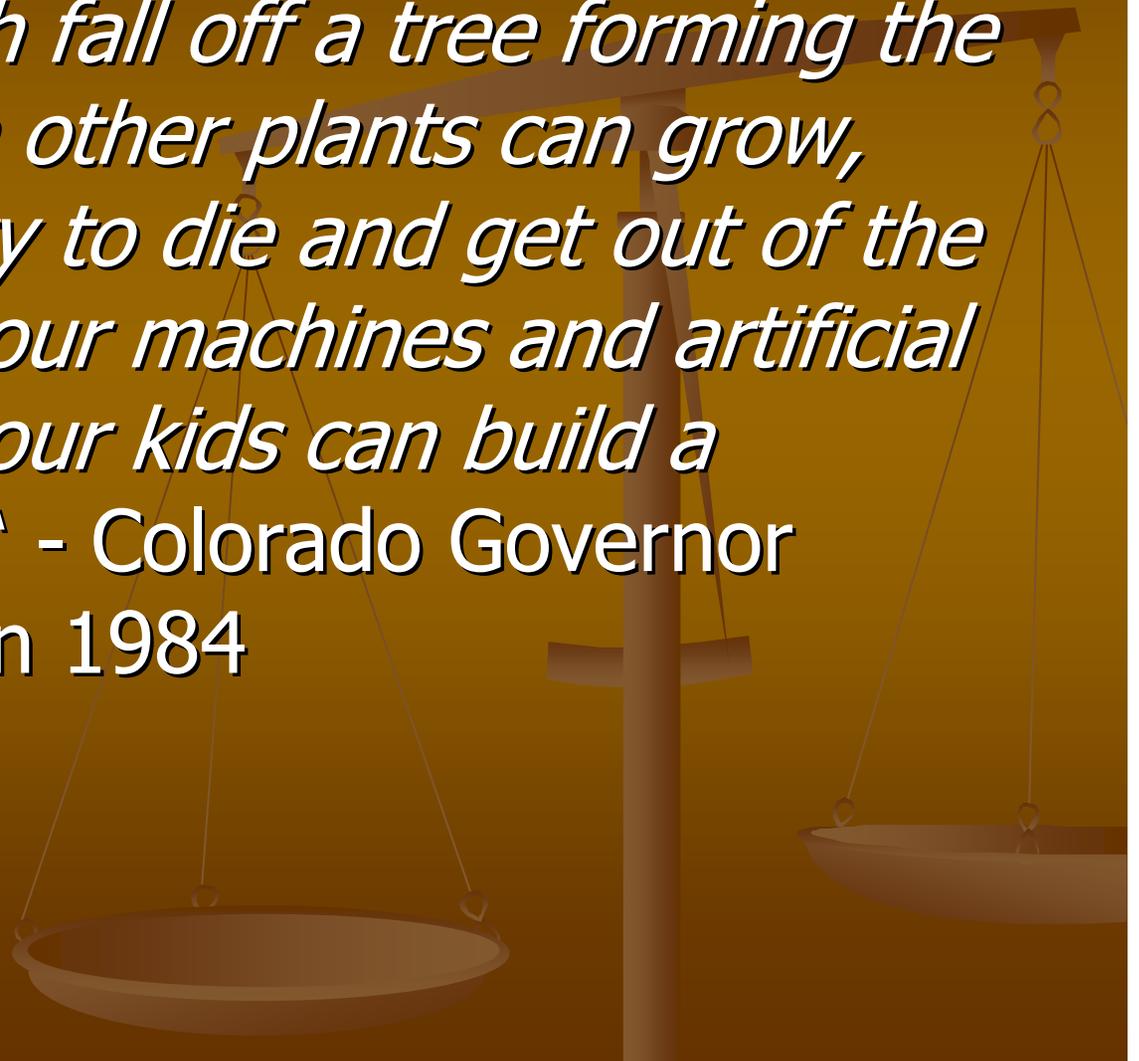


Arguments Against Euthanasia

- Euthanasia reinforces the false idea that a person's worth depends on beauty, health, vigor, power, influence, wealth or contribution to Gross National Product
 - Society is in no danger of running out of physical resources for caring for the weak and infirm.
 - Pain and suffering does not have to be purposeless.
 - Voluntary, heartfelt caring for those who need help enriches, rather than drains, the person or society
 - Suicidal feelings are caused by depression, which can and should be treated
 - Systems of voluntary euthanasia put pressure on the weak and vulnerable to self-select themselves for death
- 

Pressure on the Weak to Die

"Like leaves which fall off a tree forming the humus in which other plants can grow, we've got a duty to die and get out of the way with all of our machines and artificial hearts, so that our kids can build a reasonable life." - Colorado Governor Richard Lamm in 1984



Pressure on the Weak to Die

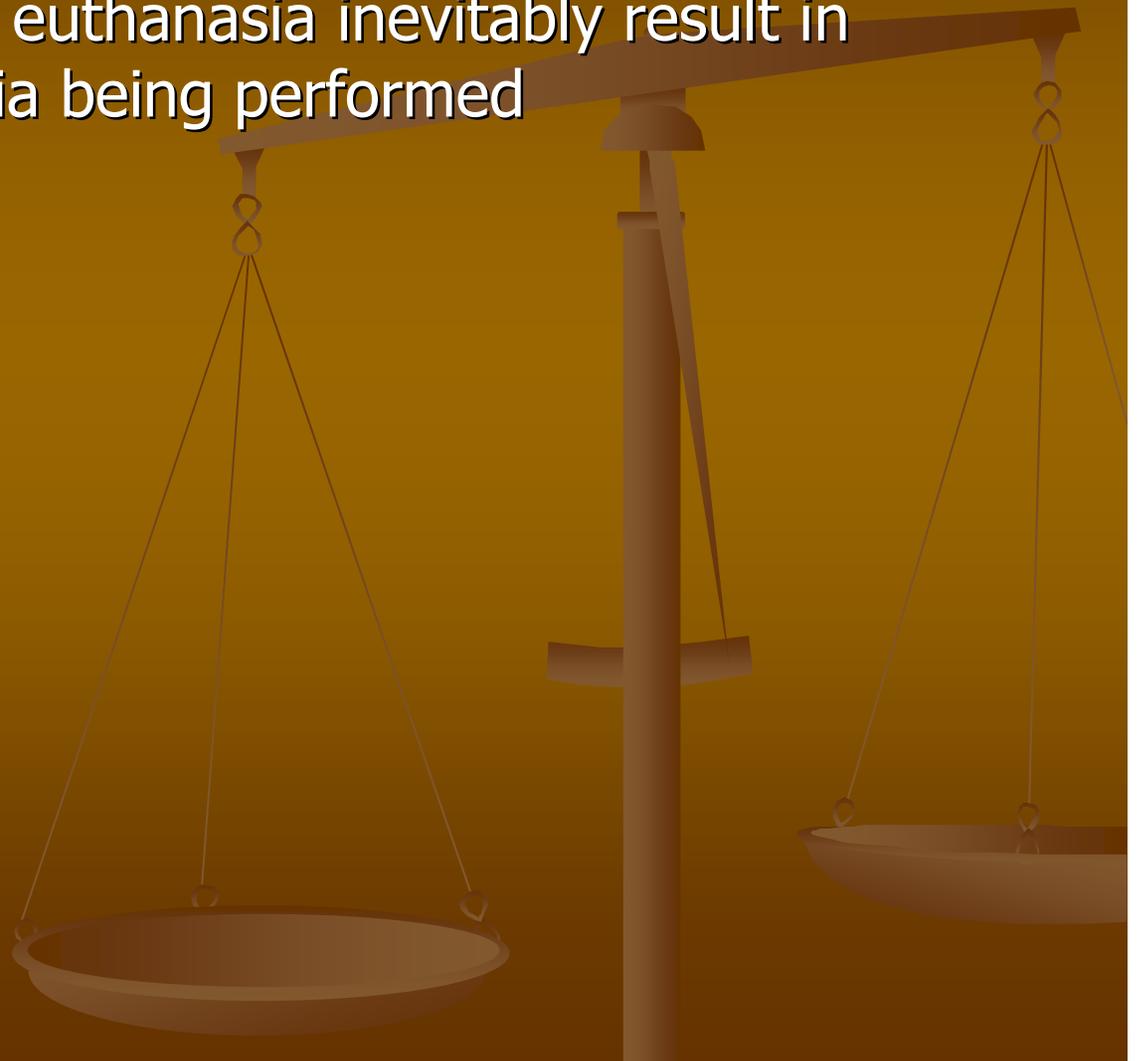
I cannot say when someone has a duty to die. Still, I can suggest a few features of one's illness, history, and circumstances that make it more likely that one has a duty to die...

1) A duty to die is more likely when continuing to live will impose significant burdens -- emotional burdens, extensive caregiving, destruction of life plans, and, yes, financial hardship -- on your family and loved ones. This is the fundamental insight underlying a duty to die.

- John Hardwig, Professor of Philosophy
University of Tennessee

Arguments Against Euthanasia

- Systems of voluntary euthanasia inevitably result in involuntary euthanasia being performed

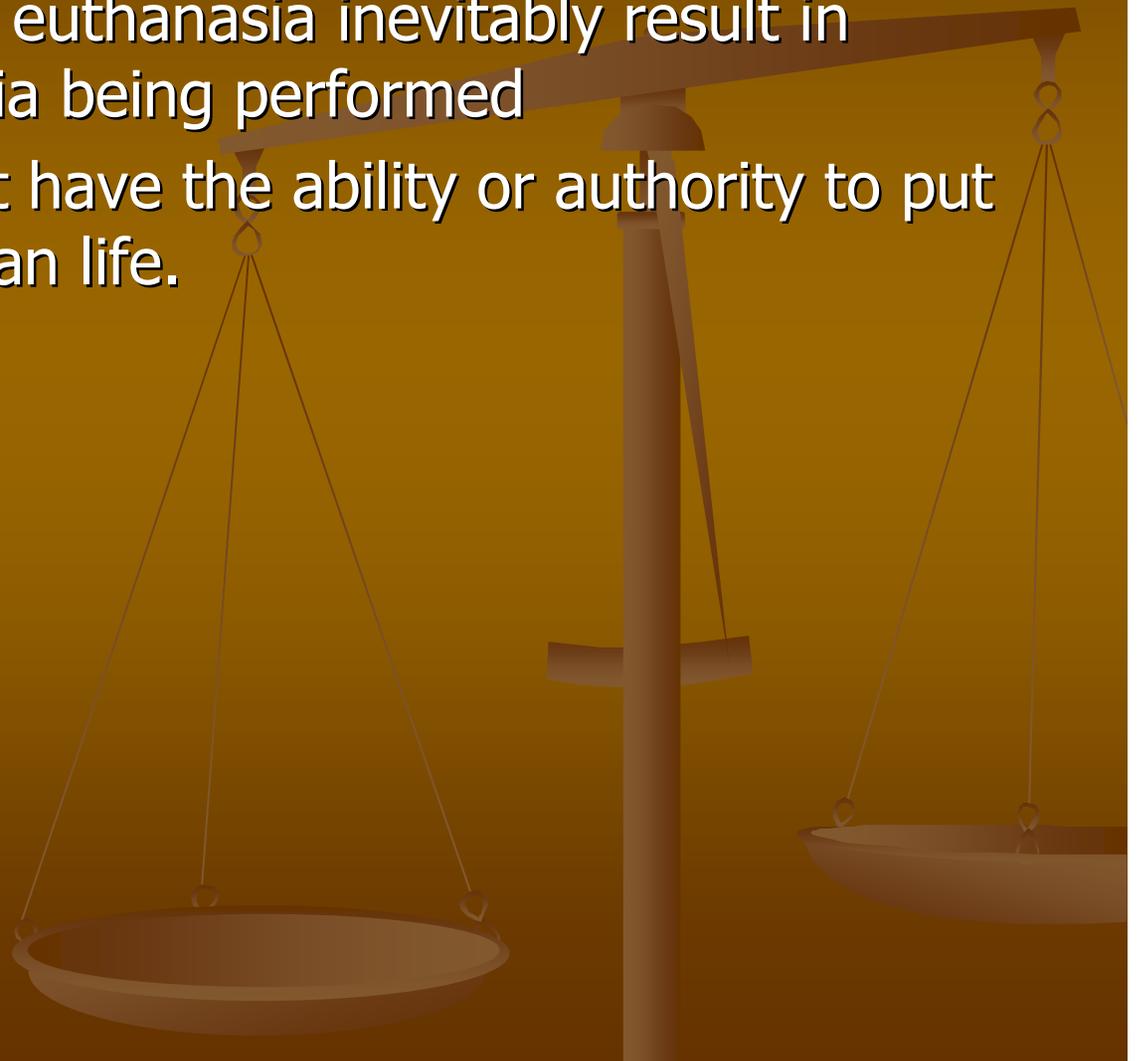


Voluntary Euthanasia Leads to Involuntary Euthanasia

- Holland was the first modern nation to legalize euthanasia in 2002 after several decades of permitting it
- According to the Rummelink Report, in 1990 Dutch physicians deliberately and intentionally ended the lives of 11,840 people by lethal overdoses or injections—a figure which accounts for 9.1% of the annual overall death rate of 130,000 per year. The majority of all euthanasia deaths in Holland were *involuntary deaths*.
- K. F. Gunning published his experience with the specialists who, when asked to admit an elderly patient to the hospital, advised the general practitioners to administer lethal injections instead.
- H. W. Hilhorst, in his extensive study (sponsored by Utrecht University and the Royal Dutch Academy of Science), found that involuntary active euthanasia was being practiced in eight hospitals
- In March 2012, mobile euthanasia units began operating to bring euthanasia directly to the homes of people who want to die

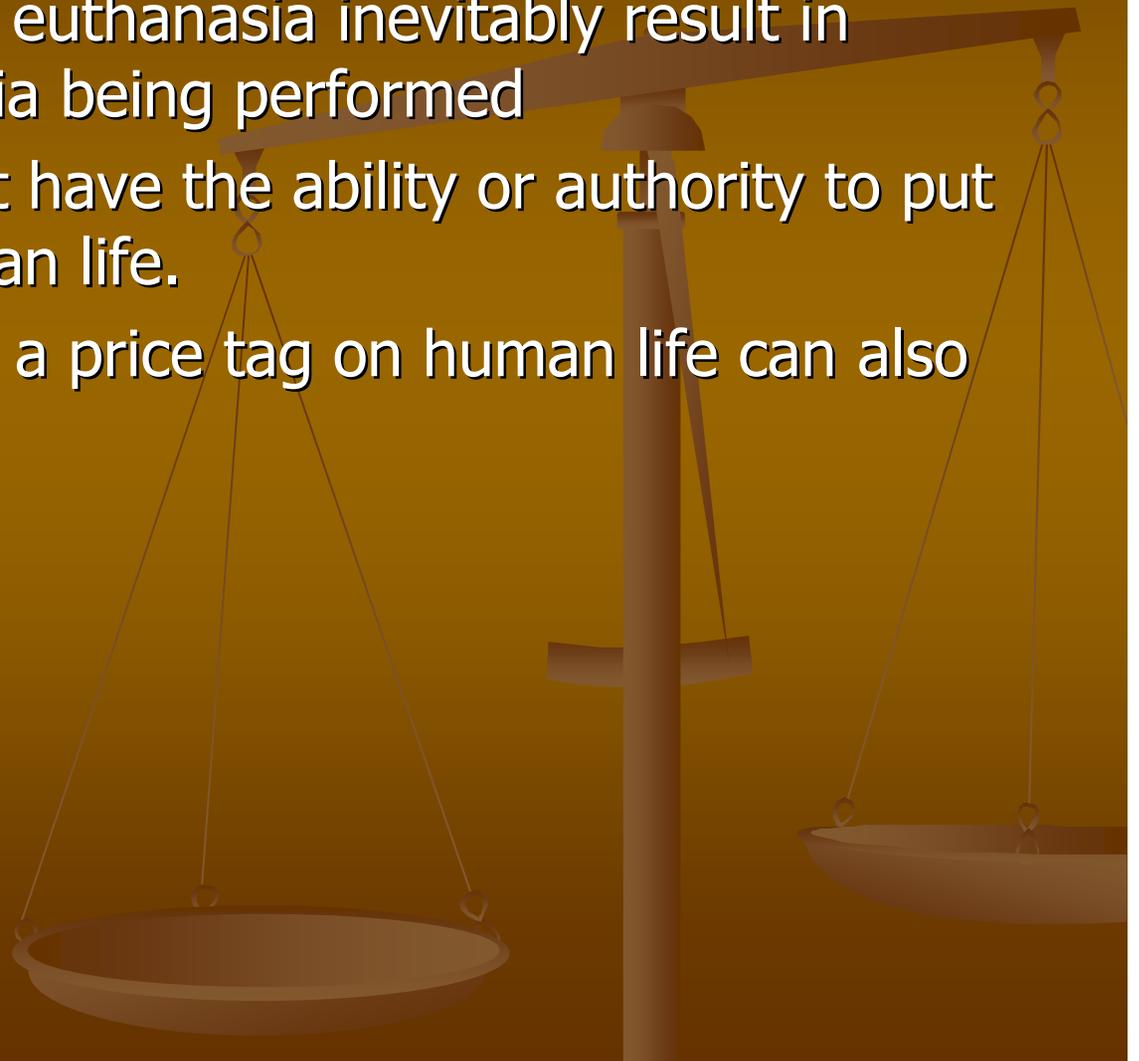
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- Systems of voluntary euthanasia inevitably result in involuntary euthanasia being performed
- Human beings do not have the ability or authority to put a price tag on a human life.



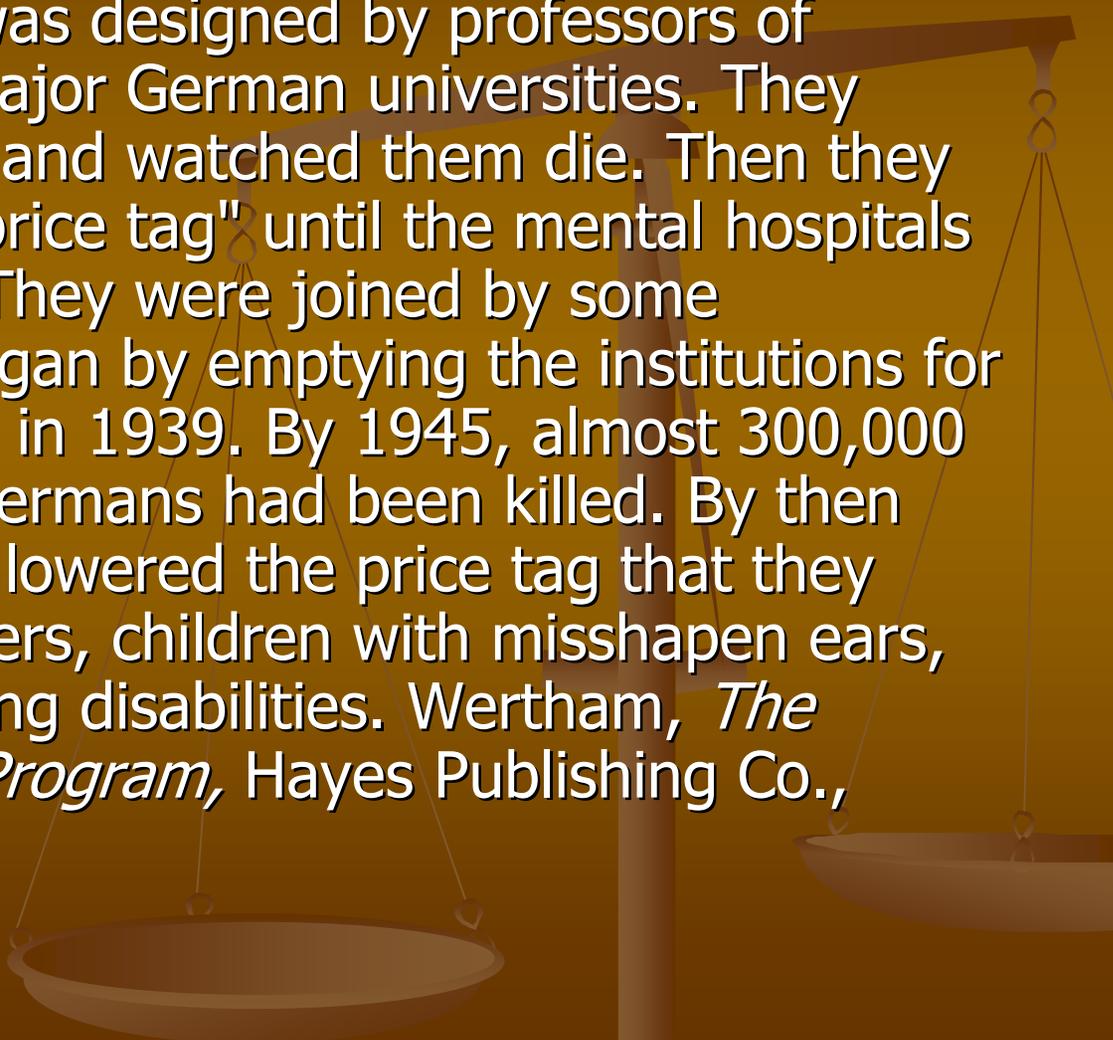
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- Systems of voluntary euthanasia inevitably result in involuntary euthanasia being performed
- Human beings do not have the ability or authority to put a price tag on a human life.
- Any society that puts a price tag on human life can also mark down the price.



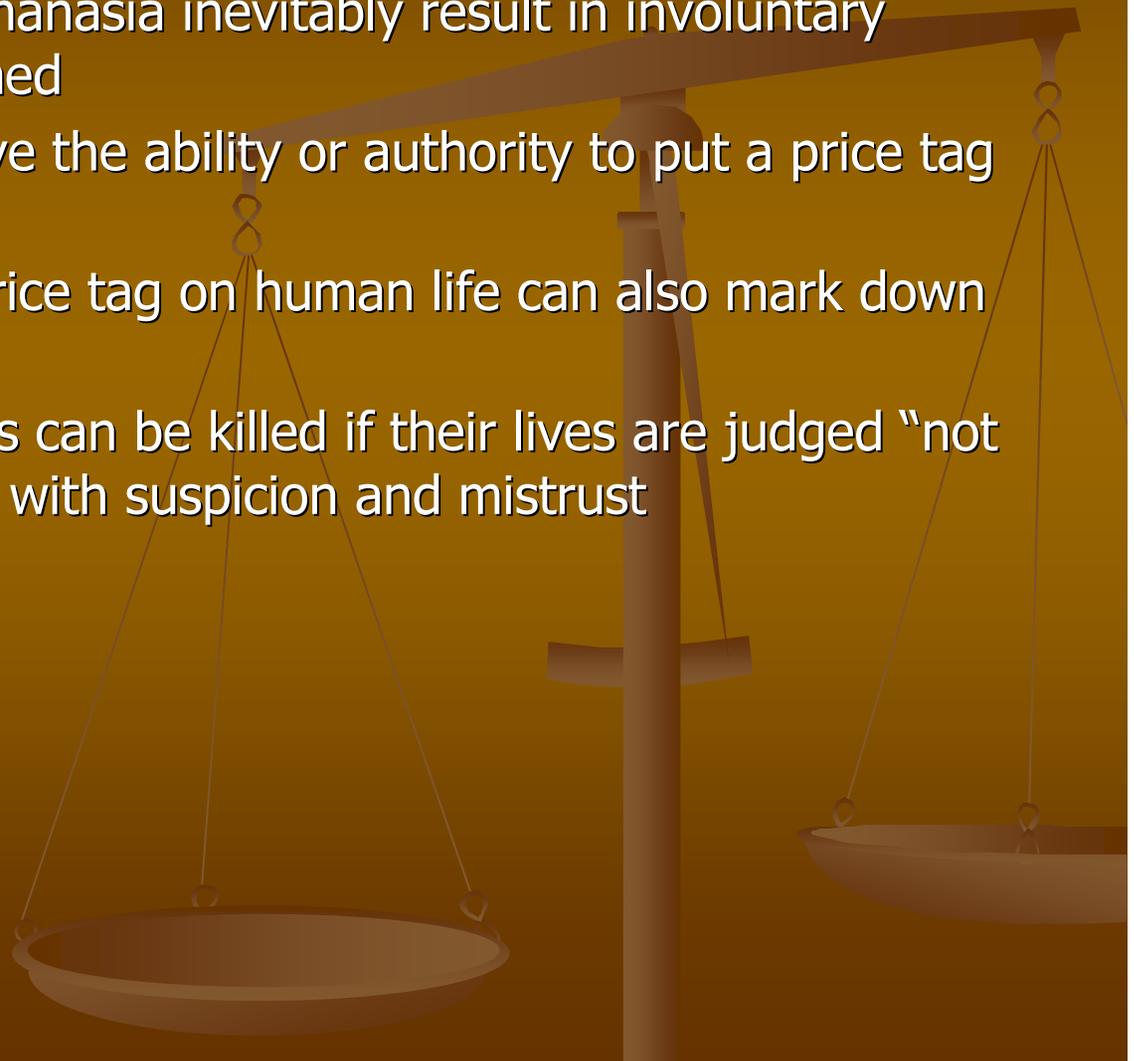
When Man Decides the Price of Human Life, It Goes on Clearance

The first gas chamber was designed by professors of psychiatry from 12 major German universities. They selected the patients and watched them die. Then they slowly reduced the "price tag" until the mental hospitals were almost empty. They were joined by some pediatricians, who began by emptying the institutions for handicapped children in 1939. By 1945, almost 300,000 "pure blood Aryan" Germans had been killed. By then these doctors had so lowered the price tag that they were killing bed-wetters, children with misshapen ears, and those with learning disabilities. Wertham, *The German Euthanasia Program*, Hayes Publishing Co., Cinn, 1977, p. 47



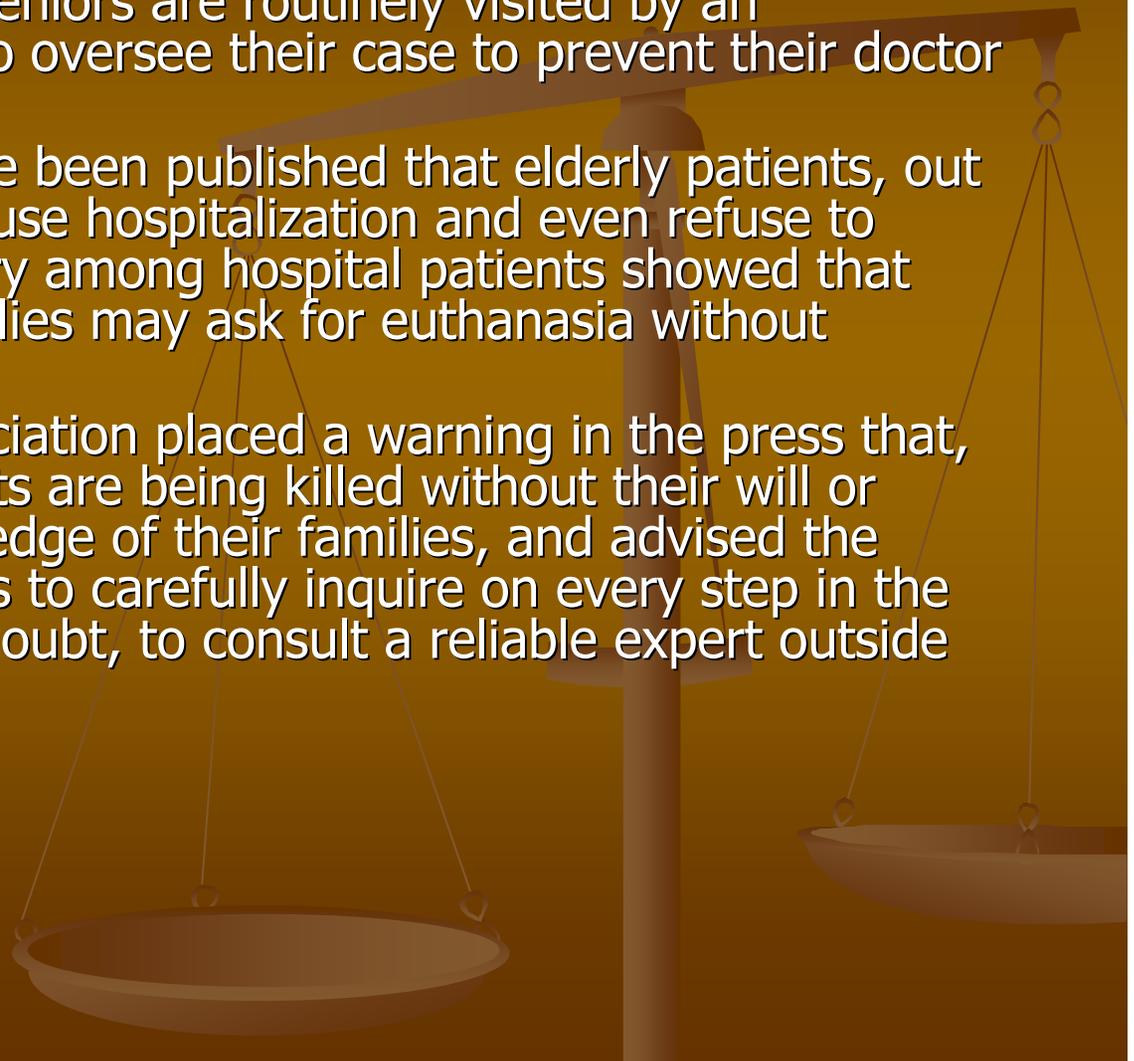
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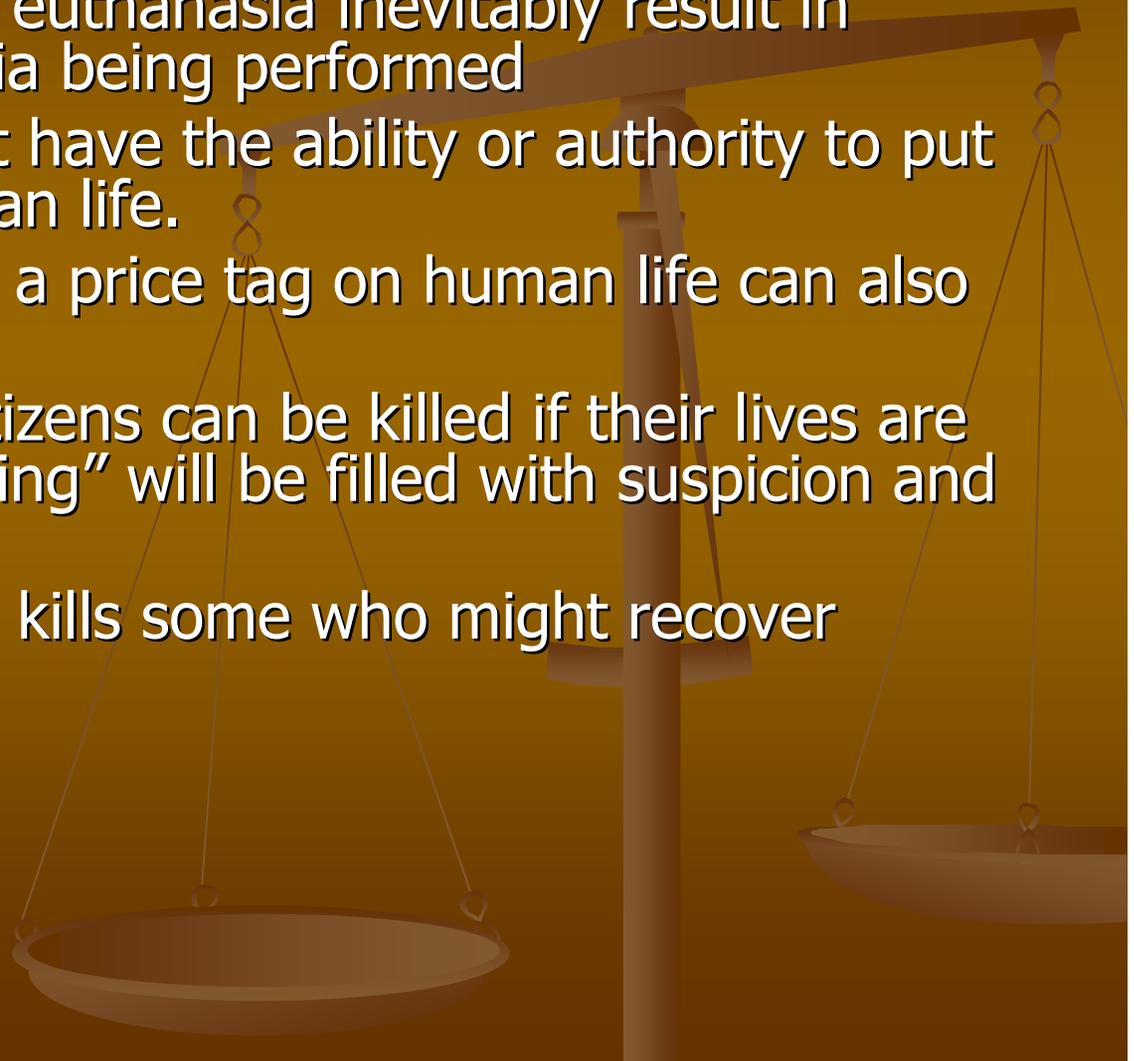
Euthanasia Destroys Trust in Society

- In Holland, hospitalized seniors are routinely visited by an organization that offers to oversee their case to prevent their doctor from killing them.
- In Holland, warnings have been published that elderly patients, out of fear of euthanasia, refuse hospitalization and even refuse to consult doctors. An inquiry among hospital patients showed that many fear their own families may ask for euthanasia without consulting them.
- The Dutch Patients' Association placed a warning in the press that, in many hospitals, patients are being killed without their will or knowledge, or the knowledge of their families, and advised the patients and their families to carefully inquire on every step in the treatment, and when in doubt, to consult a reliable expert outside the hospital.



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- Euthanasia inevitably kills some who might recover



Euthanasia Inevitably Kills Some Who Might Recover

- Sometimes patients who have been in "vegetative" states for a long time wake up, e.g., following an anesthetic accident seven years earlier, the health authority in the north of England had discussed applying to the courts to remove his feeding — but — after those seven years he woke up and was "competent enough to indicate his refusal to be interviewed." *Guardian* (newspaper London), March 16, 1996
- Seven other notable cases are recounted in "Fighting for Dear Life" by David Gibbs, p. 215-225
- Dr. Kay Andrews, Director of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, stated, "Over a two-year period, 15 out of 18 patients, thought to be in PVS, came around." *Sunday Telegraph*, Feb. 11, 1996
- In a British study of 40 patients diagnosed as P.V.S., 17 or 43% were later found to be alert, aware and often able to express simple wishes. This vital consciousness in their closed-in state, for some, lasted several years. K. Andrews et al., *Brit. Med. Jour.*, July 6, 1996

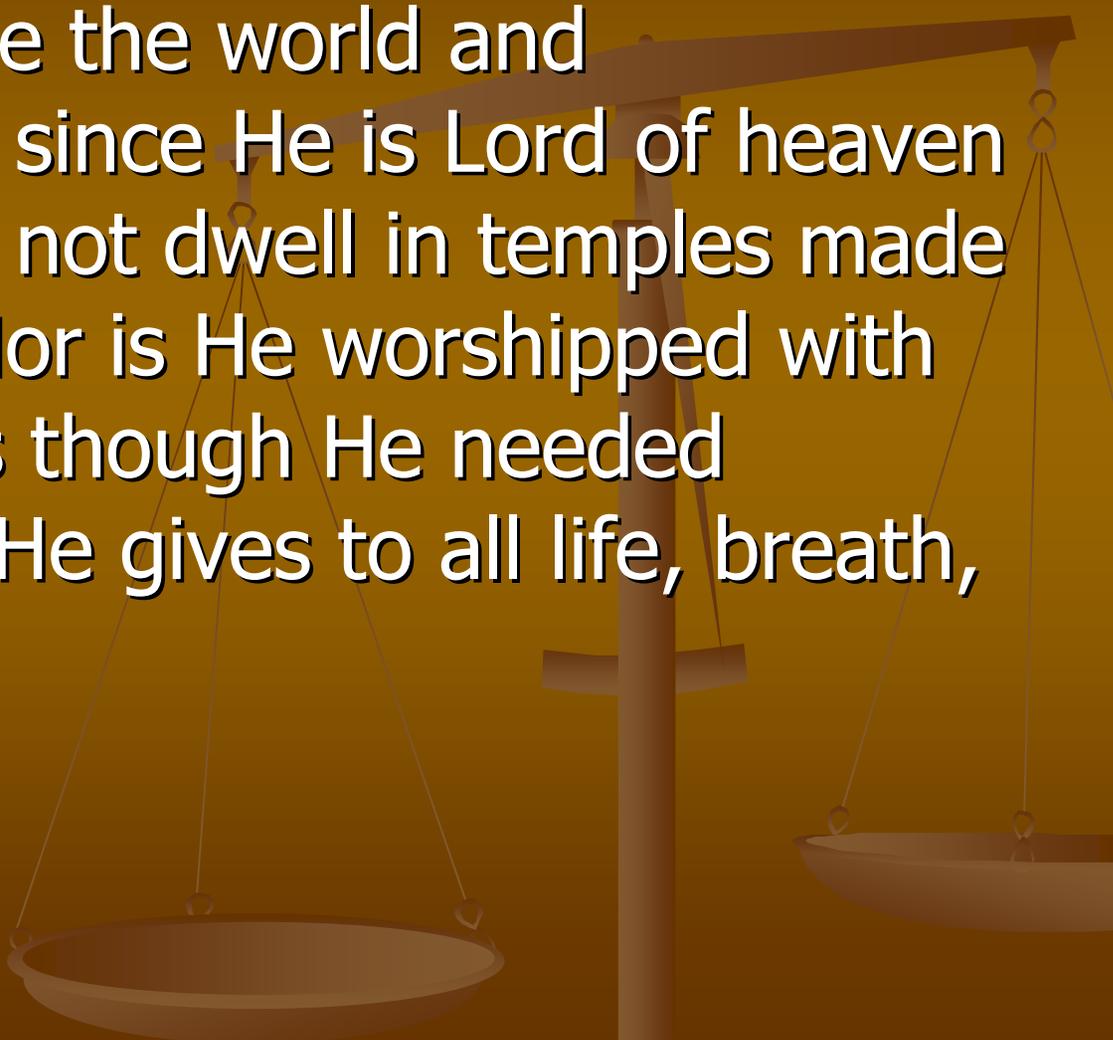
The Christian, Life, and Death

- All Life is a Gift from God (Acts 17:24-25)



Acts 17:24-25

24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things."



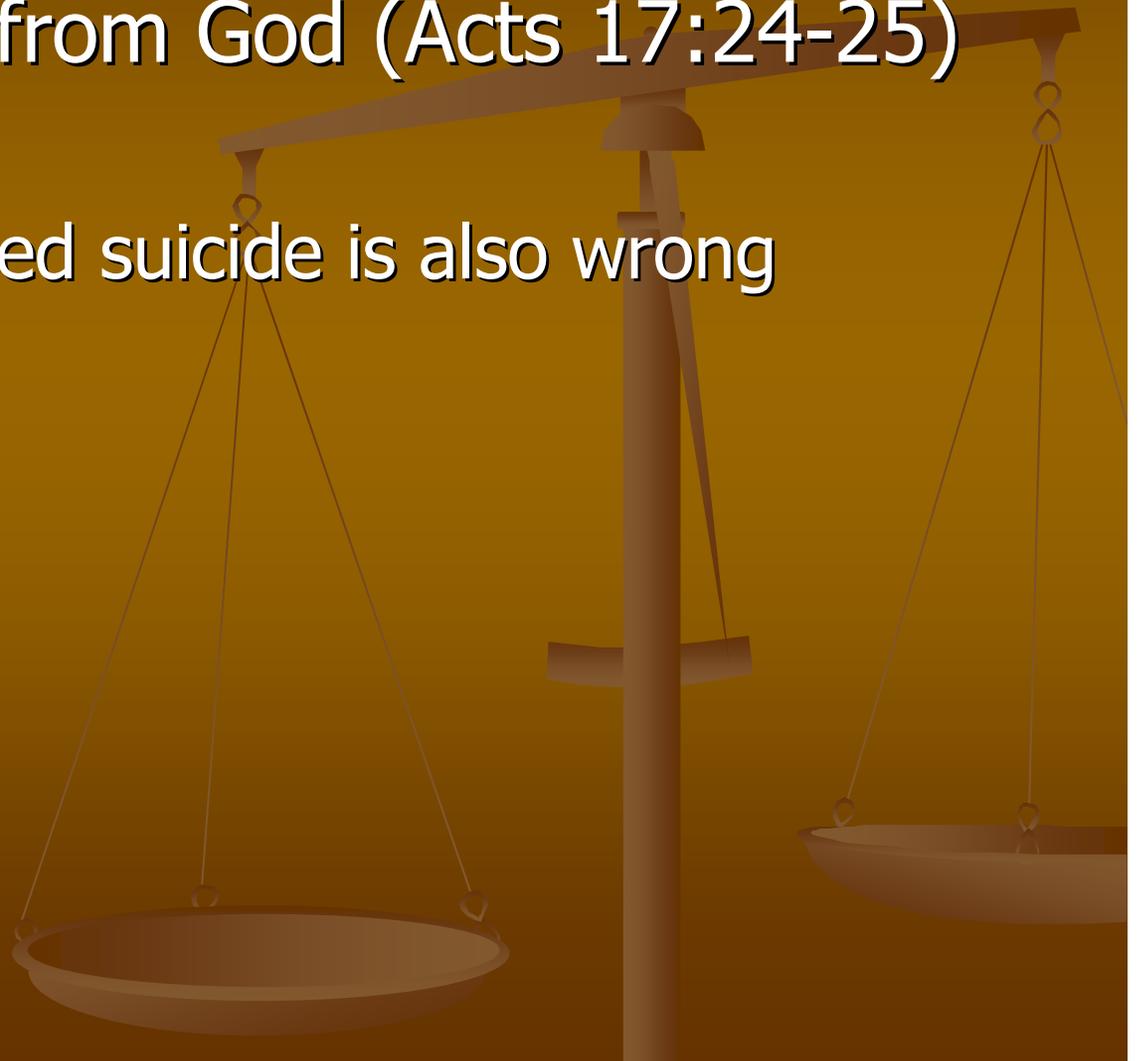
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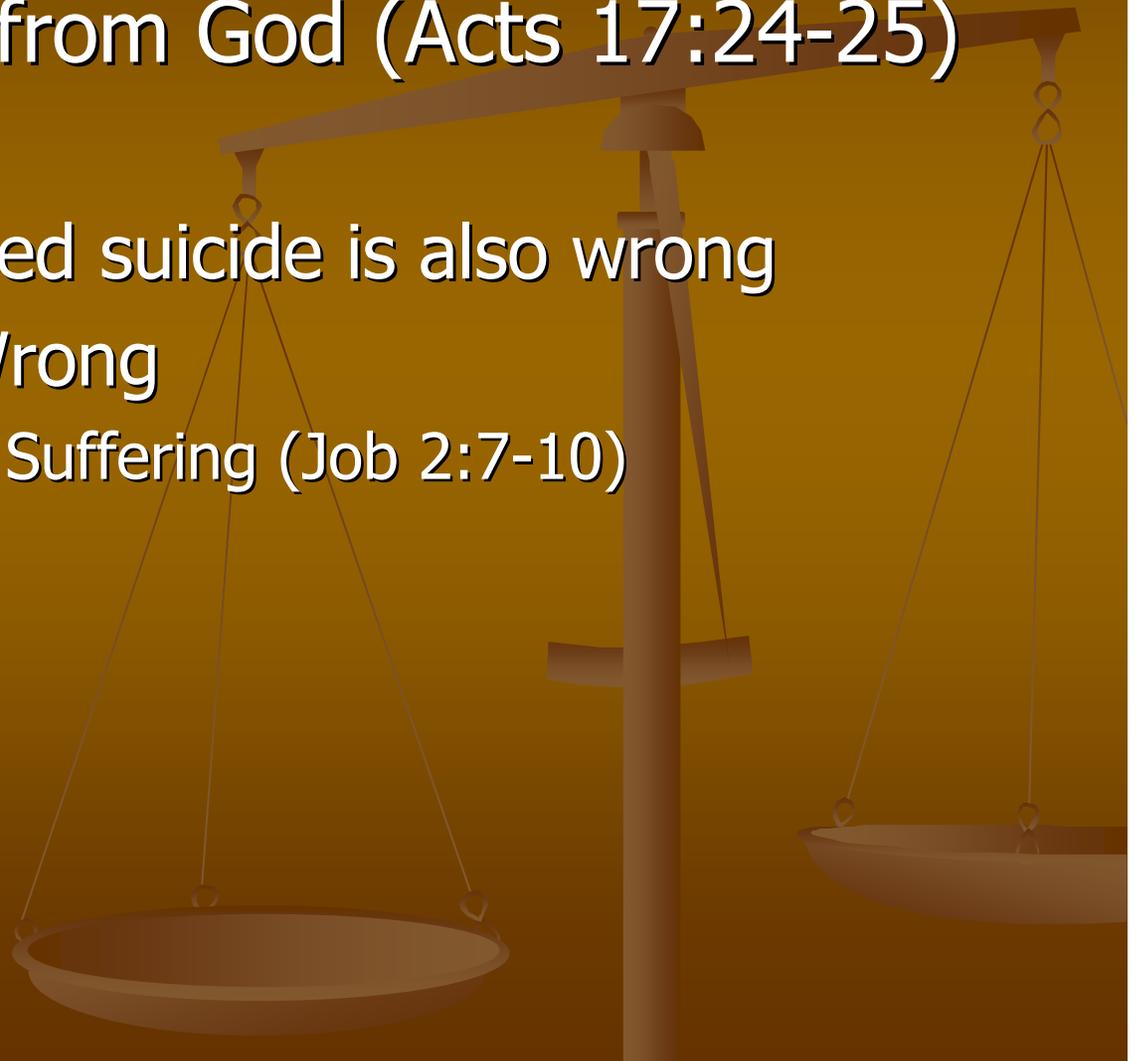
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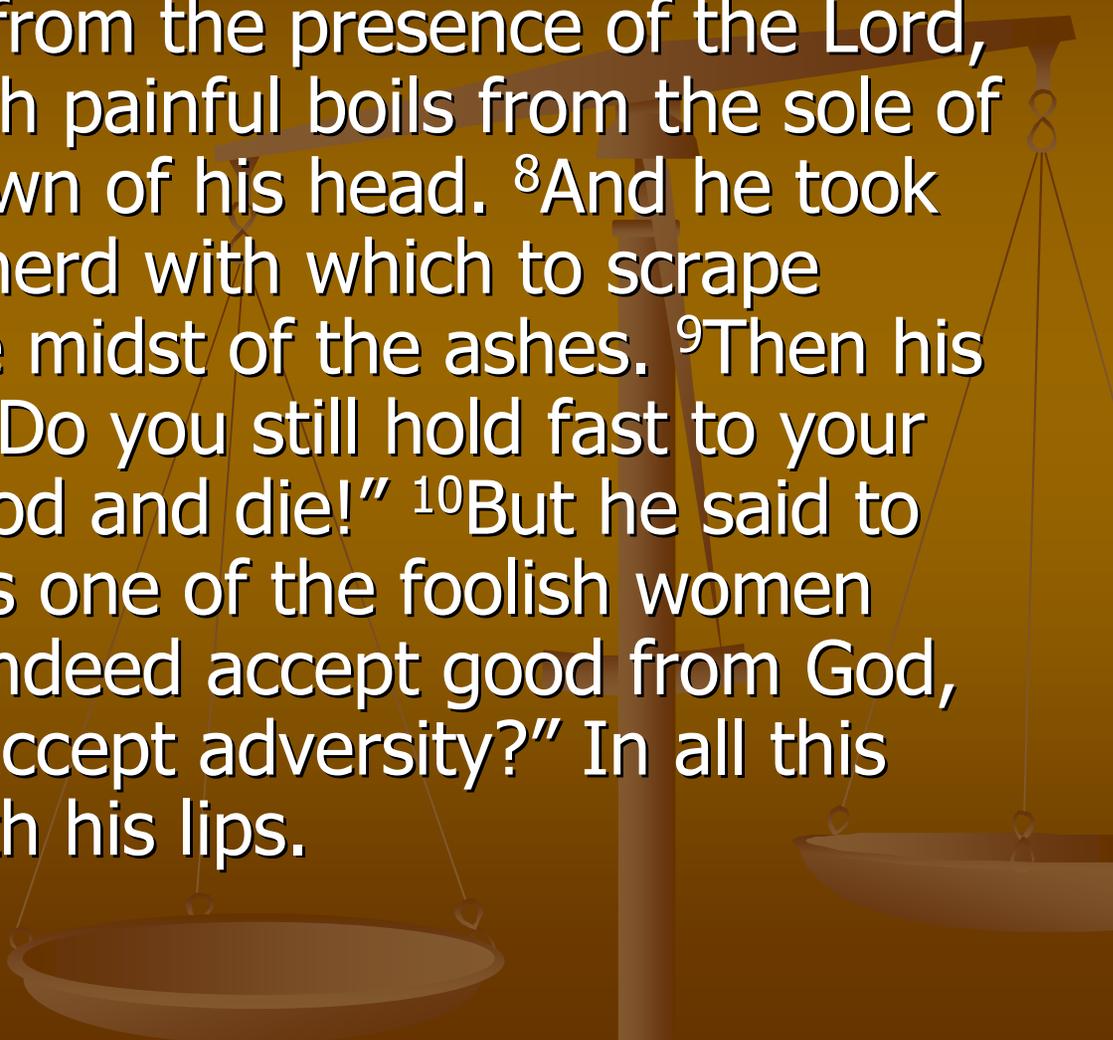
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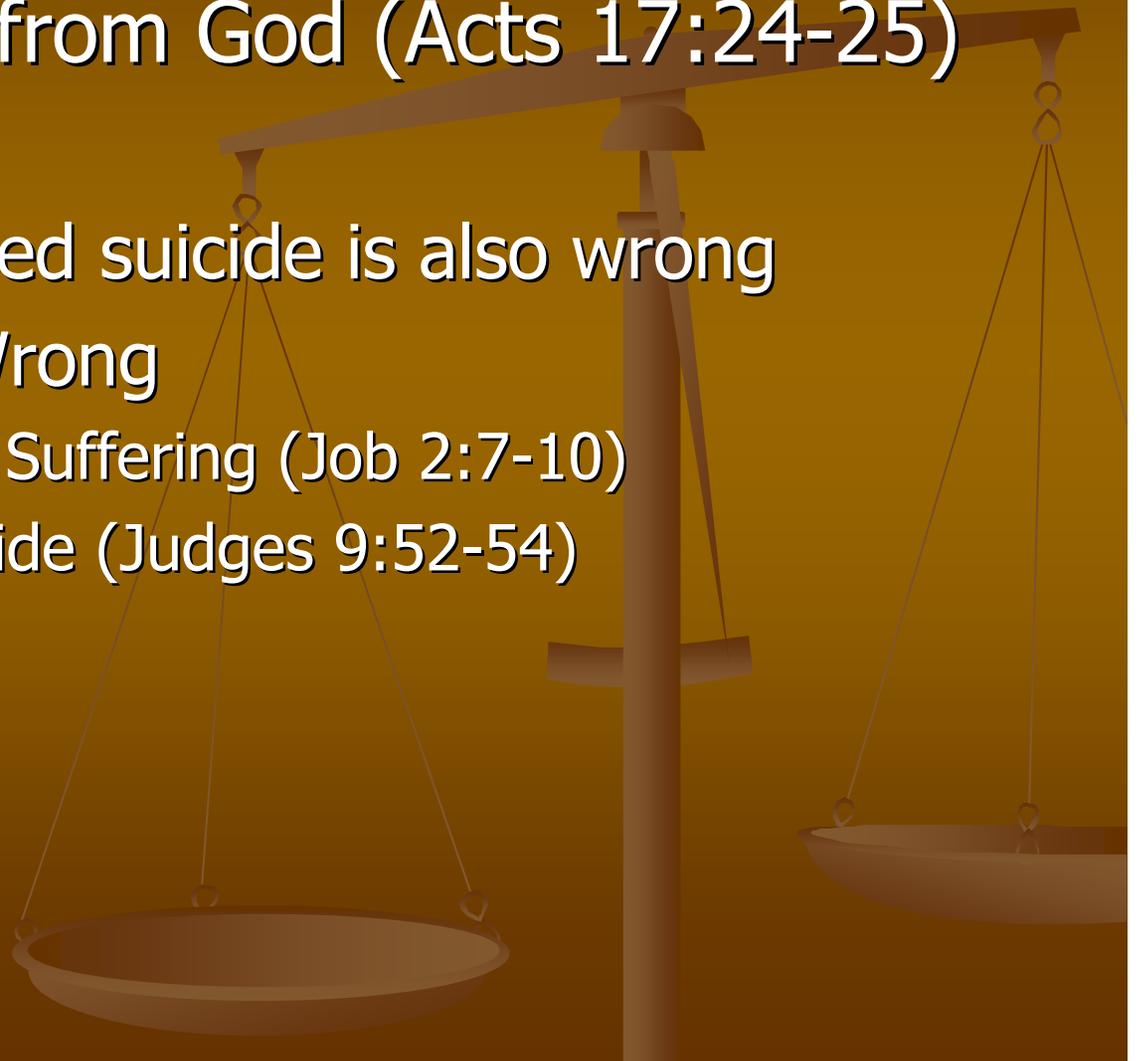
Job 2:7-10

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape while he sat in the midst of the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" ¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.



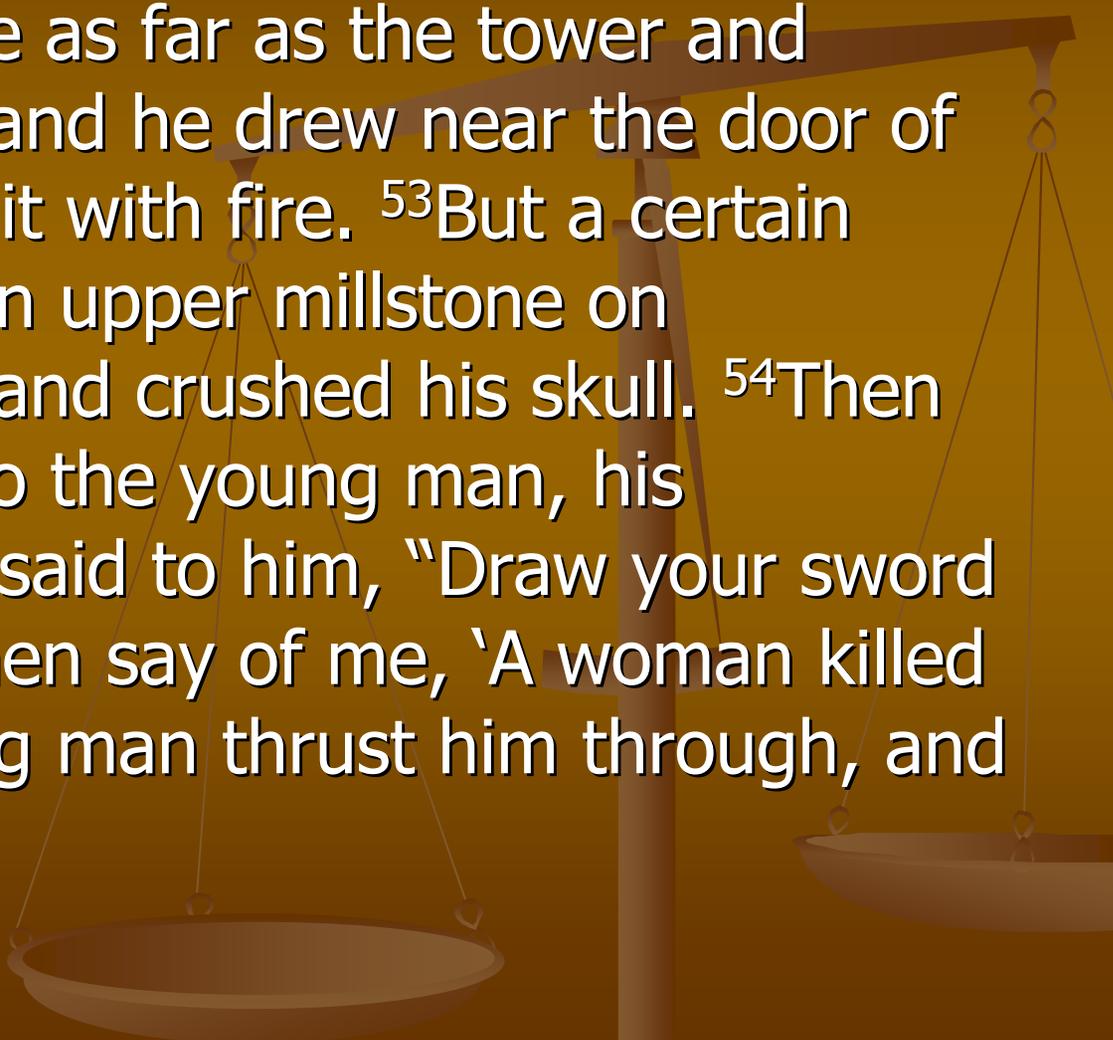
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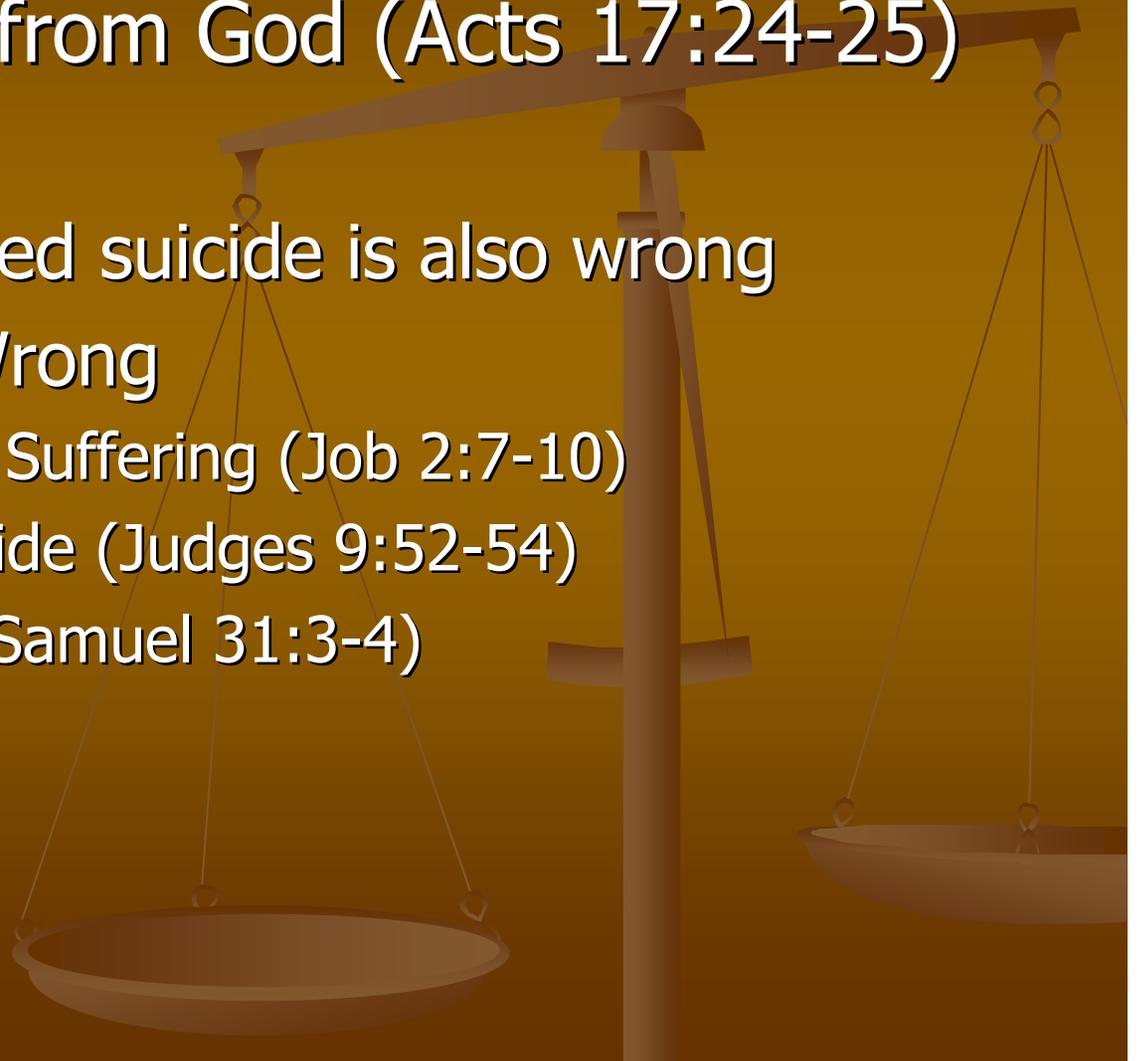
Judges 9:52-54

⁵²So Abimelech came as far as the tower and fought against it; and he drew near the door of the tower to burn it with fire. ⁵³But a certain woman dropped an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull. ⁵⁴Then he called quickly to the young man, his armorbearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest men say of me, 'A woman killed him.'" So his young man thrust him through, and he died.



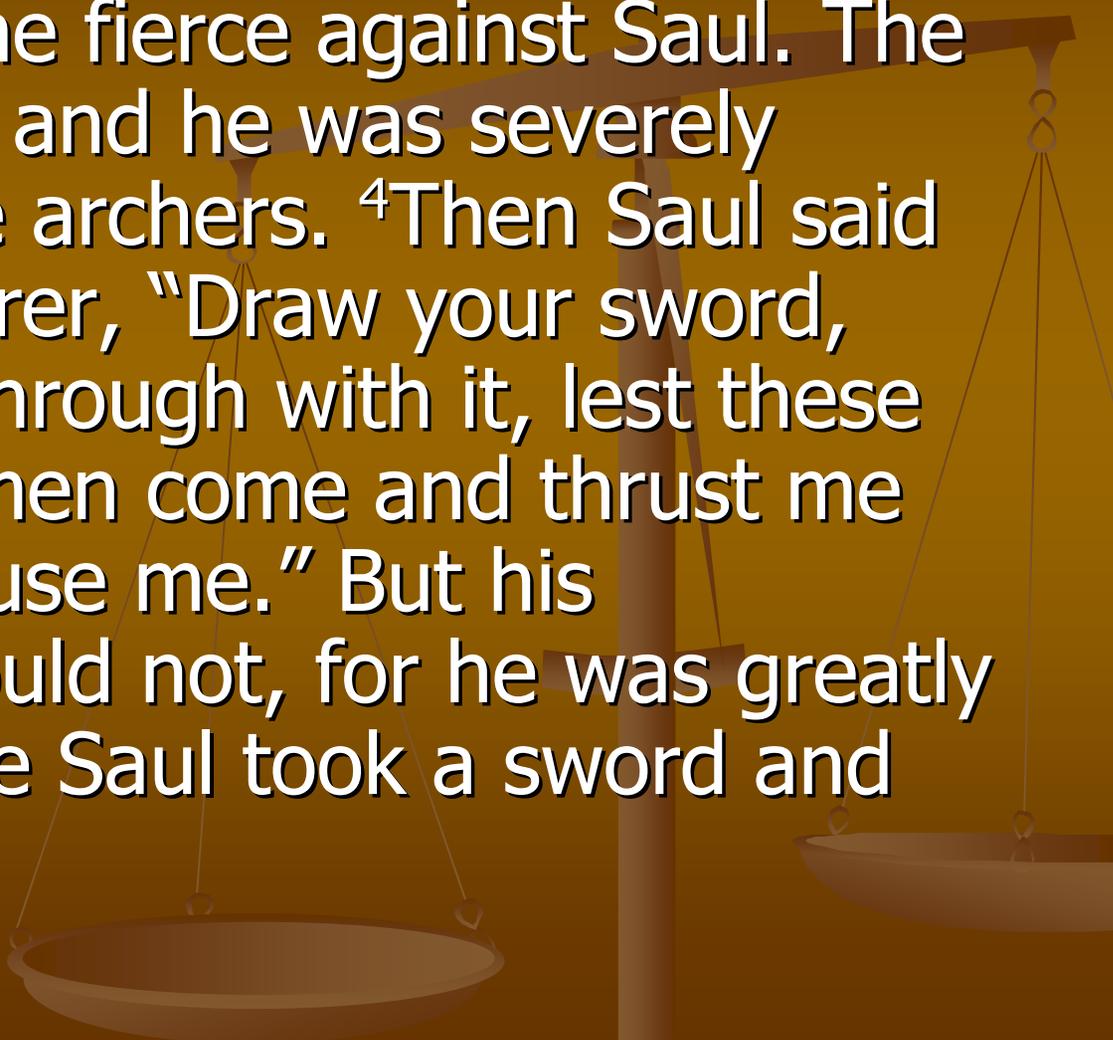
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 - Saul – Fear (1 Samuel 31:3-4)

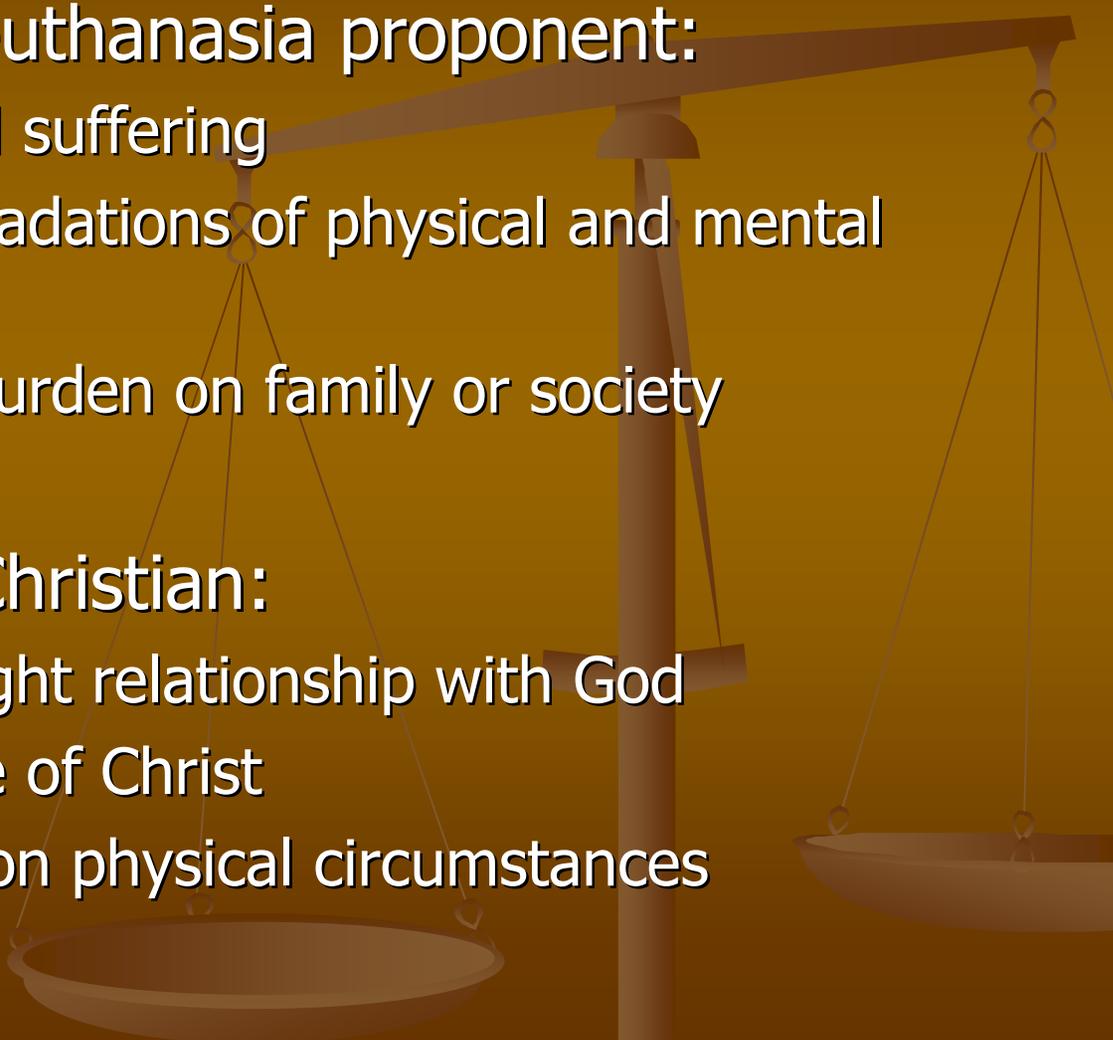


1 Samuel 31:3-4

³The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was severely wounded by the archers. ⁴Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.



What is a Good Death?



- According to the euthanasia proponent:
 - Is free of pain and suffering
 - Avoids major degradations of physical and mental powers
 - Avoids putting a burden on family or society
 - Is chosen
- According to the Christian:
 - Leaves one in a right relationship with God
 - Furthers the cause of Christ
 - Does not depend on physical circumstances

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” – Psalm 116:15

“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.” – Romans 14:7-8

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” – Revelation 2:10

