

Judas Hanged Himself...Go And Do Likewise

Matthew said of Judas, "Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself" (Matthew 27:5). Luke recorded Jesus as saying, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37). Therefore, are we to conclude that Jesus wants us all to go hang ourselves? Silly, isn't it? However, this is the way some people approach the Bible. They pick one verse here and another verse there, put them together and come up with a doctrine. Such a procedure ends up leading men into gross error.

When studying the Bible, the words must be kept in context. For instance, when the New Testament says to "work with your hands" does it mean a man must literally use his hands in his job--ditch digging, carpentry, plumbing, etc.? If a man is an accountant, bank president, is he sinning? The answer is no. The context reveals that a contrast is being made between stealing for a living and working for a living (Ephesians 4:28). Also, in 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12, Paul is telling men to stick to their own business, set a good example for others and be self-sufficient.

Let us be sure to keep the words in context lest we end up hanging ourselves.

Steven F. Deaton