



“And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world...” (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week’s lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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CHOOSING OUR OWN TERMS

Brittany Maynard died last week. She was 29 years old and had brain cancer. But the cancer didn’t take her life; she did. She chose to move from California to Oregon to take advantage of the latter’s physician-assisted suicide law. Maynard received both praise and criticism for the path she chose. The publicity swirling around her decision has brought to the fore once again the so-called right-to-die argument, where terminally ill people are aided in ending their lives “on their own terms.”

SUBMITTING TO GOD’S TERMS

God gave Ezekiel specific rules for the dimensions of the restored altar and how it was to be used for conducting sacrifices in the temple. The New Testament shifts the concept of *temple* away from a building to focus on our bodies as God’s temple (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21; 1 Peter 2:5). The New Testament also gives us both general and specific imperatives for how we are to offer our bodies as “a living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1). This adds a spiritual component to the right-to-die debate.

1. What peril is there in allowing secular forces to decide the terms of the right-to-die debate?
2. Is suicide ever a God-honoring option? Why, or why not?
3. Since our bodies are God’s temple, how can we better apply a holiness criteria to determine which thoughts we will and will not allow our minds to dwell on (1 Peter 1:15, 16)?
4. How will others see you as a living sacrifice to God in the week ahead?
5. When was the last time you chose your own terms rather than God’s terms regarding a major decision? How did things turn out?

—Charles R. Boatman

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