

Bible study for this week 1/05/09~1/11/09

***January05(Monday),2009**{ [Luke 16:19~31](#) }Key: Being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes.(Luke 16:23)“**The Options**”Bible In One Year: [Matthew 1~6; Proverbs 2:12~22](#)

Last time I checked, nobody likes having problems-problems with money, problems with cars, problems with computers, problems with people, problems with health. We would all prefer a life with as few difficulties as possible.

So, if you were to offer people the choice between (1) a future totally free of problems, sorrow, tears, and pain, and (2) a future full of pain, suffering, regret, and anguish-they would choose option one, right?

Jesus died on the cross to give us opportunity to experience that option. If we repent of our sins and trust Him as our Savior, He has promised us a life of fellowship with God in a place the Bible calls heaven. A place with no problems. A place where there are no more tears.

People living in a problem-filled world ought to be standing in line to grab that offer. Unfortunately, many haven't heard the good news; others have refused to trust Christ. When people die without Jesus, it's too late to take the offer, and they go to a place of torment the Bible calls hell.

Do you hate trouble and pain? Turn to Jesus and accept His offer of forgiveness. Your problems in this world won't disappear, but you'll reserve a home in heaven-a place of eternal joy and peace with God

Meditate: Jesus is calling, “Today you must choose!” If you delay, you surely will lose; Listening now, you can hear the Lord's voice, Take His salvation-make heaven your choice!

*Aphorism:*You must accept God's Son today if you want to live in heaven's sunshine tomorrow.

***January06(Tuesday),2009**{ [Ezra 9:5~15](#) }Key: Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. (Ezra 7:10)“**Mom's Translation**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 1~2](#)

Four pastors were discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible. One liked a particular version best because of its simple, beautiful English. Another preferred a more scholarly edition because it was closer to the original Hebrew and Greek. Still another liked a contemporary version because of its up-to-date vocabulary.

The fourth minister was silent for a moment, then said, “I like my mother's translation best.” Surprised, the other three men said they didn't know his mother had translated the Bible. “Yes,” he replied. “She translated it into life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw.”

Instead of discussing translation preferences, this pastor reminded them that the most important focus should be learning God's Word and doing it. That was the top priority of Ezra's life. As a scribe, he studied the Law, obeyed it, and taught it to the Israelites (Ezra 7:10). For example, God commanded His people not to intermarry with neighboring nations who served pagan gods (9:1~2). Ezra confessed the nation's sin to God (9:10~12) and corrected the people, who then repented (10:10~12).

Let's follow Ezra's example by seeking the Word of God and translating it into life.

*Meditate:*When we take time to read God's Word, Our heart is filled with pleasure; So let's relate the truth we've heard-With others share the treasure.

*Aphorism:*The best commentary on the Bible is a person who puts it into practice.

***January07(Wednesday),2009**{ [1 Timothy 6:6~10,18](#)}Key: Be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.(1 Timothy 6:18)"**Willing To Share**"Bible In One Year: [Genesis 13~15; Proverbs 3:1~10](#)

Followers of Jesus are to be "rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18). This was demonstrated in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia. Christians quickly poured in money, materials, and manpower to bring relief to the suffering. That help has continued.

Believers show this generosity in their local communities as well. When a family lost their home and all their belongings in a fire, a flood of assistance-money, food, clothing, a temporary place to live-came from fellow believers all over the area to get them through the crisis.

When a husband walked out on his wife and three children after depleting the family's savings account and running up huge bills, the people of her church stepped in with the spiritual, emotional, and financial support she needed. And some of the women of the church faithfully encircled her with prayer and encouragement.

These believers are following the plan of God for the Christian life. There are needs all around you that you can have a vital part in meeting.

Are you "rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share"?

Meditate: Love is giving for the world's needs, Love is sharing as the Spirit leads, Love is caring when the world cries, Love is compassion with Christlike eyes.

Aphorism: If you really care, you'll want to share.

***January08(Thursday),2009**{ [1 Timothy 6:13~16](#)}Key: [Jesus said,] "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish."(John 10:28)"**Our Eternal God**"Bible In One Year: [Genesis 16~18; Proverbs 3:11~26](#)

Late one afternoon I stood at the stern of a ferry boat churning its way from New York City across the Hudson River to New Jersey. As the towering structures of Manhattan receded from sight, my mind suddenly recalled these words from a poem: "These all shall perish stone on stone, but not Thy kingdom nor Thy throne."

A few years later the devastating terrorist attack on the World Trade Center left an ugly gap in that soaring skyline. Everything in the world around us is subject to decline. Beautiful flowers wither and die. Even California's towering sequoias, hardy survivors for long centuries, are gradually being eaten away by the gnawing tooth of time.

As for our bodies, we grow older daily and lose the vitality of our younger years. God alone possesses immortality in Himself, which means that He abides forever ([1 Timothy 6:16](#)). The simple truth must be faced that nothing is permanent-only God is everlasting.

Yet by faith in Jesus Christ, we can receive life that will never end. He promised us, "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. . . . and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand" ([John 10:28~29](#)).

*Meditate:*Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious-Thy great name we praise.

*Aphorism.*To give your life to Christ now is to keep it forever.

***January 09 (Friday), 2009** { [2 Samuel 12:1~14](#) } Key: If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. (Galatians 6:1) **“Burying Our Heads”** Bible In One Year: [Genesis 19~21; Proverbs 3:27~35](#)

Contrary to common belief, the ostrich does not bury its head in the sand to ignore danger. An ostrich can run at a speed of 45 miles per hour, kick powerfully, and peck aggressively with its beak. As the largest and fastest bird in the world, it doesn't need to bury its head.

“Burying your head in the sand” is a saying that describes someone who wants to ignore his shortcomings or those of others. The prophet Nathan did not allow King David to forget his sins of adultery and murder (2 Samuel 12:1~14). It took a brave man to confront a king about his errors. Yet Nathan was obedient to God and wise in his approach.

The apostle Paul urged the early church to confront sin. He said, “If a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1). We are to confront our brothers and sisters in Christ about their sin with the view of restoring them to fellowship with God. We must also recognize that we are not immune to the same temptations.

We shouldn't go looking for sin in the lives of other believers, of course. But neither should we bury our head in the sand when it needs to be confronted.

Meditate: Father, help me live today With thoughtfulness in what I say, Confronting wrong with truth and fact, Expressing gentleness and tact.

Aphorism. Slander seeks to destroy; rebuke seeks to restore.

***January 10 (Saturday), 2009** { [John 12:23~36](#) } Key: I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. (John 12:32) **“Drawn By The Cross”** Bible In One Year: [Genesis 22~24; Proverbs 4:1~17](#)

Towering above New York Harbor is the Statue of Liberty. That stately lady, with freedom's torch held high, has beckoned millions of people who were choking from the stifling air of tyranny or oppression. They've been drawn to what that monument symbolizes—freedom.

Inscribed on Lady Liberty's pedestal are these words by Emma Lazarus from her poem “The New Colossus”: *Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore; Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

A different monument towers over history, offering spiritual freedom to enslaved peoples everywhere. It's the cross where Jesus hung 2,000 years ago. At first the scene repels us. Then we see the sinless Son of God dying in our place for our sins. From the cross we hear the words “Father, forgive them” ([Luke 23:34](#)) and “It is finished!” ([John 19:30](#)). As we trust in Christ as our Savior, the heavy burden of guilt rolls from our sin-weary souls. We are free for all eternity.

Have you heard and responded to the invitation of the cross?

Meditate: Lord Jesus, I know I'm a sinner and cannot save myself. I need You as my Savior. Thank You for dying in my place and rising again. I believe in You. Please set me free from my sin. I want to live with You in heaven someday. Amen.

Aphorism. Our greatest freedom is freedom from sin.

***January 11 (Sunday), 2009** { [Revelation 3:14-22](#) } Key: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. (Revelation 3:20) **“Don’t Bother Me”** Bible In One Year: [Genesis 25~27; Proverbs 4:18~27](#)

As a young man, C. S. Lewis abandoned his childhood faith in God and declared his belief in no religion, saying they were all myths created by man. Years later, after acknowledging Jesus as the Son of God and his Savior, Lewis wrote of that time in his book *Surprised By Joy*. He said: “No word in my vocabulary expressed deeper hatred than the word *Interference*. But Christianity placed at the center what then seemed to me a transcendental Interferer. There was no region even in the innermost depth of one’s soul which one could surround with a barbed wire fence and guard with a notice ‘No Admittance.’ And that was what I wanted; some area, however small, of which I could say to all other beings, ‘This is my business and mine only.’”

Every person has the right to say to God, “Leave me alone. Don’t bother me.” But it is the Lord’s right to pursue us with His persistent mercy. To the self-satisfied church at Laodicea, the risen Christ said: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me” (Revelation 3:20).

By His grace, the Lord keeps knocking, ready to fill our lives with His love.

Meditate: What joy and blessings we can know When Jesus comes to dine! He brings His riches and His love And fellowship divine.

Aphorism: God’s love is persistent but never pushy.