

## Bible study for this week 1/19/09~1/25/09

\***January 26 (Monday), 2009** { [2 Corinthians 11:23~28](#) } Key: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. (2 Timothy 4:6) "**Magnifying Our Master**" Bible In One Year: [Matthew 18~22; Proverbs 10:1~11](#)

As a man of unwavering steadfastness, the apostle Paul had a fixed ambition. He spelled it out in his letter to the Philippians: "Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death" (1:20).

No matter what Paul might be called upon to suffer, no matter what hardships he might undergo, he was determined that his life would be a means of magnifying Jesus. And without flinching, he held tight to that determination through peril, pain, and imprisonment, and even willingly offered his body as a sacrifice.

Some of us may not be able to see how Jesus could be magnified in our bodies. We may think that it can be done only during times of persecution for our faith. But that is not the case.

Our hands can magnify the Lord as we write letters of encouragement. Our feet can magnify Him as we go on simple errands of helpfulness. Our voices can magnify Him as we give our testimony and sing His praises. Our hearts can magnify Him as we express in prayer our love for the redeeming Christ. Our ears can magnify Him as we gratefully listen to sermons exalting His grace.

If we know Jesus, we can lift Him up to others in our daily lives.

**Meditate:** Take my will and make it Thine-It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart-it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

**Aphorism:** You are one of a kind-designed to glorify God as only you can.

\***January 27 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Exodus 17:1~6](#) } Key: We are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:9) "**Fellow Workers**" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 9~11](#)

When it came time for Moses to strike the rock in the desert to get water for the thirsty Israelites, his part was very small-just strike the rock. Anyone in Israel could have done it. The main thing was what God was doing in the heart of the earth to provide a bountiful river of water.

But the two worked together: Moses before the people; God in the hidden depths of the earth. Moses and God were fellow workers.

There are always two agents in every fruitful work: willing workers and a faithful God. The human part is to do whatever God has asked us to do-strike the rock. God's work is to make the water flow.

Was Moses weighed down with anxiety that day as he approached the rock, thinking that he might fail? I doubt it. He had only to follow the Lord in obedience. God had promised to do the rest. And Moses had seen God work mighty miracles in the past.

Are you anxious about the task God has given you to do today? Do you believe that everything depends on you? Just strike the rock. God is working in secret to pour out rivers of water for every man, woman, and child. And when living waters begin to flow, praise Him. Just do your part and He'll do His.

**Meditate:** As a fellow worker with the Lord, Do the work He's given you today; You will find His blessings all outpoured-He will do His part if you obey.

**Aphorism:** "Apart from Me, you can do nothing." -Jesus

\***January 28 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Colossians 3:1~17](#) } Key: Set your mind on things

above.(Colossians 3:2)“*The Choice Is Ours*”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 7~9; Proverbs 10:12~21](#)

One summer afternoon I climbed a hill near my home. When I reached the top, I stretched out on the grass to relax.

Turning my head to one side, my eyes focused on some blades of grass within inches of my face. This short-range focus not only strained my eyes, but it blurred my view of anything beyond the end of my nose. So I began to adjust my focus, and then the distant city came into view instead. I found I could shift my sights from near to far at will. The choice was mine.

In today’s Bible reading, the apostle Paul emphasized that followers of Christ need to keep eternity in view. He wrote, “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth” ([Colossians 3:2](#)). We can choose where to put our focus.

We can succumb to selfish, earthbound thoughts, blurring our view of anything beyond the end of our nose. Or we can gaze through this sinful scene and fix our attention on things above, where Christ is seated at God’s right hand-and we with Him! Then, and only then, are we in a position to see what’s most important in life.

Only the mind set on things above can say no to sin and yes to holiness. The choice is ours.

***Meditate:*** Help me to watch and pray,And on Thyself rely; And let me ne’er my trust betray, But press to realms on high.

***Aphorism:***The only way to see life clearly is to focus on Christ.

\***January29(Thursday),2009**{ [Luke 17:11~19](#)}Key: One of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God.(Luke 17:15)“*The Greatness Of Gratitude*”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 10~12; Proverbs 10:22~32](#)

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when ten lepers approached Him. Standing at a distance, as lepers were required to do, they called to Him: “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ([Luke 17:13](#)).

When Jesus saw them, He commanded, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they journeyed, they were healed.

One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back, threw himself at Jesus’ feet, and thanked Him. “Where are the nine?” Jesus asked. Good question.

Jesus referred to the grateful man as a Samaritan-an outsider-perhaps to underscore His saying that “the sons of this world are more shrewd . . . than the sons of light” (16:8). The word translated “shrewd” means “thoughtful.” Sometimes people of the world have better manners than Jesus’ followers do.

In the busyness of life, we may forget to give thanks. Someone has done something for us-given a gift, performed a task, delivered a timely sermon, provided a word of counsel or comfort. But we fail to say thanks.

Has someone done something for you this week? Give that friend a call or send a thank-you note. After all, “Love has good manners” ([1 Corinthians 13:5](#) Phillips).

***Meditate:*** We thank You, Lord, for blessings You give us on our way; May we for these be grateful,And praise You every day.

***Aphorism:***We don’t need more to be thankful for-we just need to be more thankful.

\***January30(Friday),2009**{ [Isaiah 40:6~8](#)}Key: The grass withers, . . . but the word of our God stands forever. (Isaiah 40:8)“*The Lost Library*”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 13~15; Proverbs 11:1~11](#)

My favorite sections of the local library are history and the periodicals. What about you? Imagine if one Saturday morning you showed up at the library, only to find your favorite books reduced to a pile of ashes.

Centuries ago, that is what happened when thousands of books at the Library of Alexandria caught fire. Alexandria was *the* place to do research in the ancient world. Then on a fateful day in 47 BC, Julius Caesar set fire to his ships in the Alexandrian harbor to prevent them from falling into enemy hands. The fire soon spread to the docks and the naval arsenal, ultimately destroying 400,000 of the library's precious scrolls.

Such a tragedy shows just how perishable written materials can be. This makes the preservation of our Bible such a marvel. The Word of God has survived book-burnings, riots, revolutions, persecutions, and catastrophes. Yet scholars tell us that the manuscripts have been accurately preserved through millennia of copying.

God inspired the writing of Scripture ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)) and has promised to preserve it through the centuries ([Isaiah 40:8](#)). Next time you open your Bible, take a moment to reflect on how precious it is, and thank God for keeping it safe for you.

**Meditate:** Thank You, Lord, for Your precious Word, And for its message I have heard; No other book do I revere, No other counsel hold so dear.

**Aphorism:** Bestsellers come and go, but the Word of God abides forever.

\***January 31 (Saturday), 2009** { [Galatians 4:21~31](#) } Key: We are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. (Galatians 4:31) "**Are You Free?**" Bible In One Year: [Exodus 16~18; Proverbs 11:12~21](#)

Kizzy Kinte didn't have a chance. The daughter of Kunta Kinte in Alex Haley's epic book *Roots* wanted to slip the bonds of slavery and live free, as her ancestors had done in Africa. But she couldn't. She was born of a slavewoman, Bell Kinte, and in those terrible days of bondage, she was destined to live as a slave.

Kizzy's parentage-over which she had no control-dictated her destiny. That sounds a little like Galatians 4:31, where Paul used an analogy of an Old Testament story to help us understand bondage and freedom. Alluding to the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar, Paul explained the difference between the child of a bondwoman (Hagar) and the child of a freewoman (Sarah). Only the child of the freewoman could enjoy an inheritance; the other was destined to bondage.

Here's the point: each of us-male or female, Jew or Gentile, black or white, rich or poor-can share in God's inheritance. All who trust in Jesus as Savior become "not children of the bondwoman but of the free" (v.31). We are released from the bondage of the law of God and offered God's grace instead. And our inheritance is freedom-absolute freedom in Christ.

Has God's grace made you free?

**Meditate:** Out of my bondage, sorrow, and night, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come; Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.

**Aphorism:** True freedom is found in bondage to Christ.