

## Bible study for this week 2/02/09~2/08/09

\***February02(Monday),2009**{ [Psalm 15](#) }Key: Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? (Psalm 15:1)“**The Best Question**”Bible In One Year: [Matthew 23~8](#); [Proverbs 12:1~14](#)

Nobel Prize-inning physicist Martin Perl was asked what he attributed his success to. “My mother,” he answered. “Every day when I came home from school she asked me, ‘So, Marty, did you ask any good questions today?’”

David asked the best question of all: “Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?” (Psalm 15:1). There are two words ancient Jews had for expressing the question “who?” One is similar to our usage. But David used another word here that asks, “What kind of person dwells close to God?”

The answer came in a series of character traits: “He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart” (v.2).

It’s one thing to know the truth; it’s another to obey it. God delights to live on His holy hill with those who are holy—who reflect the reality of the truth they believe. He loves men and women who “ring true.”

This psalm, however, is not about any holiness of our own that we think will qualify us to gain entrance to His presence. It is rather about the beauty of holiness that God forms in us as we dwell in fellowship with Him.

The closer we get to God, the more like Him we will become.

**Meditate:** More purity give me, more strength to o’ercome,More freedom from earth-stains, more longings for home;More fit for the kingdom, more used would I be,More blessed and holy—more, Savior, like Thee.

**Aphorism:**Walk so close to God that nothing can come between.

\***February03(Tuesday),2009**{ [Psalm 119:41~48](#) }Key: I have hoped in Your ordinances. So shall I keep Your law continually.(Psalm 119:43~44)“**I Dare You!**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 12~4](#)

I heard a story about a small church that was having a reunion. A former member who attended the celebration had become a millionaire. When he testified about how God had blessed him over the years, he related an incident from his childhood.

He said that when he earned his first dollar as a boy, he decided to keep it for the rest of his life. But then a guest missionary preached about the urgent need on the mission field. He struggled about giving his dollar. “The Lord won, however,” the man said. Then, with a sense of pride he added, “I put my treasured dollar in the offering basket. And I am convinced that the reason God has blessed me so much is that when I was a little boy I gave Him everything I possessed.” The congregation was awestruck by the testimony—until a little old lady in front piped up, “I dare you to do it again!”

There’s a vital truth behind that story: Past attainments are not a measure of present spiritual maturity. Psalm 119:44 says, “So shall I keep Your law continually.” The psalmist knew he needed to keep his commitment fresh every day.

As Christians, we cannot rest on past victories. We must give the Lord our full devotion *now*. Then no one will need to challenge us, “I dare you to do it again!”

**Meditate:** Today Christ calls, “Come, follow Me! Look not to yesterday; Fresh grace you’ll need to do My will— Just trust Me and obey.”

**Aphorism:**Use the past as a springboard, not as a sofa.

\***February04(Wednesday),2009**{ [Luke 7:36~50](#) }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)“***Love Enough To Confront***”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 34~35; Matthew 22:23~46](#)  
We hear a lot of talk these days about following the example of Jesus by “accepting” and “affirming” people just as they are. The implication is that we must never confront them when they do something wrong.

Yes, Jesus loved and accepted people, but He did not shrink from confronting them. We see this in Luke 7.

Jesus had accepted a dinner invitation from Simon, a self-ighteous Pharisee. While at his house, the Lord permitted a woman with a bad reputation to wash His feet with expensive perfumed oil. Jesus knew Simon’s judgmental thoughts as the weeping woman lavished Him with love (vv.36~39). So He confronted the Pharisee about his hypocrisy.

It’s likely that Simon had invited Jesus to his home to try to trap Him. Jesus reminded him of his failure to extend the courtesies normally bestowed on a guest (vv.44~46). Then He acknowledged the evil of the woman’s past and the genuineness of her repentance. The Lord said, “Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much” (v.47).

Jesus was respectful to self-righteous religionists, dishonest tax collectors, and prostitutes alike. Yet He never glossed over their sins. He loved people enough to confront them. And so should we.

***Meditate:***I know that I am far from perfect, Lord, But if you tell me I should recognize And tactfully address some wrong in others, I will, with all the love that in me lies.

***Aphorism:***True love dares to confront and correct.

\***February05(Thursday),2009**{ [Exodus 37:1~9](#)}Key: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. (James 1:17)“***The Sensuous Christian***”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 36~38; Matthew 23:1~22](#)

The gratification of our senses has gotten a bad reputation, perhaps because we live in a world obsessed with pleasure. But God approves of the proper experience of pleasure through our five senses.

First, God created our senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch—and all that He created is good.

Second, God made sensuousness a part of worship. Consider God’s first formal worship setting: the tabernacle. It housed an ornate, gold-covered ark to hold the stone tablets God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai. *God approves of beauty.* It had an altar of incense where priests burned a blend of fragrant spices made by a perfumer. *God approves of pleasant aromas.* It had an elaborate table with plates and pitchers. *God approves of a tasteful dining experience.* Around the tabernacle were curtains made from colorful yarn and finely twisted linen. *God approves of beautiful colors and textures.* Music was also a component of worship, as we learn from reading 2 Chronicles 29:28. *God approves of pleasing sounds.*

Yes, God values things that look, sound, smell, taste, and feel good. But He doesn’t want us to worship them; He wants our enjoyment and gratitude to prompt us to worship Him, the Creator and giver of all good things.

***Meditate:***God gave us five senses His world to enjoy; But when we indulge them, Their good we destroy.

***Aphorism:***It makes sense to use our senses to glorify God.

\***February06(Friday),2009**{ [2 Timothy 3:14~17](#)}Key: All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, . . . for instruction in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)“***Jordan’s Idea***”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 39~40; Matthew 23:23~39](#)

One spring day, Jordan began asking questions about Jesus' resurrection as his mom was taking him to preschool. Realizing he thought Jesus was rising from the dead for the first time this Easter, she tried to correct him. She pulled the car over and told him all about Jesus' death and resurrection. She concluded, "Jesus rose from the dead a long time ago, and now He wants to live in our hearts." But Jordan still didn't understand.

Unsure how she could make it any clearer, she said, "How about if we stop by the bookstore? I saw some books about Easter when I was there last week. We'll get one and read through it together." With a wisdom beyond his years, Jordan responded, "Can't we just read the Bible?"

Jordan's idea was right. Commentaries and books about the Bible are helpful tools. But they should never be used as a substitute for God's revelation of Himself—His Word. No other book has been given to us "by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). As author Eugene Peterson says, "God's voice [is] speaking to us, inviting, promising, blessing, confronting, commanding, healing."

Let's follow Jordan's idea and go first to the ultimate source of truth—the Bible.

**Meditate:** Exhaustless store of treasured gems Within this Book I hold; And as I read, it comes alive, New treasures to unfold.

**Aphorism:** Go to the Bible for your protection, correction, and direction.

\***February 07 (Saturday), 2009** { [Psalm 32:8~11](#) } Key: Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle. (Psalm 32:9) "**As Stubborn As Prunes**" Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 1~3; Matthew 24:1~28](#)

At a Colorado ranch where I once worked, we had a mule named Prunes. He was big, strong, and intelligent. He was also the ringleader of a small band of horses that regularly escaped from the corral.

One evening we hid near the barn to see how they got out. Just before dark Prunes approached the gate, flipped up the latch with his nose, and then knocked his head against the lever. The gate swung open and Prunes gave a satisfied snort as he and his friends trotted off to freedom.

Prunes was smart, but he was also stubborn, and only a strong, skilled rider could control him. Perhaps the psalmist had known an animal like that when he wrote: "Do not be like the horse or like the mule, which have no understanding, which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, else they will not come near you" (Psalm 32:9).

The Lord longs to lead His children in a much different way: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye" (v.8). Just a glance from the Lord is enough to keep an obedient, cooperative Christian on the right trail. It takes a bit and bridle to direct a stubborn mule. Which will it be for us today?

**Meditate:** We need God's guidance from above, His daily leading and His love; And as we trust Him for direction, To our course He'll give correction.

**Aphorism:** To avoid going wrong, follow God's leading.

\***February 08 (Sunday), 2009** { [Matthew 24:32~44](#) } Key: Abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. (1 John 2:28) "**Dirty Dishes**" Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 4~5; Matthew 24:29~51](#)

When I was a boy, my father often traveled to other cities to speak at churches and Bible conferences. Sometimes my mother would accompany him, leaving my brother and me alone for a few days. We enjoyed being independent, but we detested doing the dishes.

I remember the time we tried to put off that dreaded chore as long as possible by stacking all the dirty plates, glasses, and silverware in the oven after each meal. At the end of the week, there was hardly any room left. Then, on the evening before Mom and Dad were to return, we rolled up our sleeves and cleaned up the whole mess. It took hours! How ashamed we would have been if our parents had come back earlier than we expected.

Because we don't know exactly when Christ will return (Matthew 24:36,42,44), we must not get lazy in our Christian walk. The expectancy of His any~moment appearance should help us to be "faithful and wise" servants (v.45) and to live in a way that "we may have confidence and not be ashamed" when He comes (1 John 2:28).

Yes, Christ will come again, just as He promised. Perhaps today! Do you have any "dirty dishes"? Now is the time to get ready.

***Meditate:*** Faithful and true would He find us here If He should come today? Watching in gladness and not in fear, If He should come today.

***Aphorism:*** Live as if Christ is coming back today.