

## **Bible study for this week** 3/30/09~4/05/09

\***March 30(Monday),2009**{ [Romans 8:16-30](#)}Key: Our light affliction . . . is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Corinthians 4:17)“Groans Now, Glory Later”Bible In One Year: [Judges 9-10; Luke 5:17-39](#)

I once heard of a Christian seminar titled, “How To Live A Stress-Free Life.” Such an unrealistic hope promptly made me stressful! Yet we all long for relief from life’s many pressures.

A Christian friend of mine whose family is experiencing tough times admits feeling let down by God. She said, “I’ve prayed, agonized, and claimed promises, but nothing changes. The frustrating thing is that I know He has the power to get us out of this. I’ve seen Him do it before, but this time He’s silent.”

Larry Crabb, in his book *Inside Out*, emphasizes that our only hope for complete relief from hardship is to be with Jesus in heaven. “Until then,” he says, “we either groan or pretend we don’t.” He adds, “The experience of groaning, however, is precisely what modern Christianity so often tries to help us escape.”

My friend is groaning and she’s not pretending she isn’t. Like all of us, she simply wants things to change. But the fact is, something is changing—she is!

Paul assured us in 2 Corinthians 4:17 that our present sufferings are lightweight and brief compared with the weighty and eternal changes they are producing in us. We groan now, but there’s glory ahead (Romans 8:18).

*Meditate:*The obstacles that we must face Along life’s rocky way Are used by God so we might hear “Well done” from Him someday.

*Aphorism.*God often uses a setback to move us forward.

\***March 31(Saturday),2009**{ [Psalm 39](#) }Key: Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. (Psalm 39:4)“Clocky”Bible In One Year: [Judges 11-12; Luke 6:1-26](#)

A graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology may have helped solve the problem of oversleeping. For an industrial design course, 26-year-old Gauri Nanda created “Clocky,” a foam-covered alarm clock with wheels, which runs away and hides before you can hit the snooze bar. A circuit board instructs small motors to move randomly so that the clock ends up in a new place every day. Before you can turn it off, you have to get out of bed and find it.

We say that “time flies,” but a wise person observed that “time stays and we fly.” Whether we rise early or stay in bed, we are being carried along by the mysterious force called time.

Each day, a fresh awareness of life’s brevity can encourage our trust in God. The psalmist wrote: “Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. . . . Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. . . . And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You” (Psalm 39:4-5,7).

What do we need to accomplish today? Perhaps we need to begin an essential task, address a lingering issue, or work to restore a valuable relationship before we fall asleep and need to be awakened again.

Life is short, but our God is strong.

*Meditate:* If time could be our servant, Our days would be sublime; But if we fail to master it, We’re only “serving time.”

*Aphorism:* Don't spend time; invest it.

**\*April 01 (Saturday), 2009** { [Psalm 119:89-104](#) } Key: I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life. (Psalm 119:93) "The Forgotten Book" Bible In One Year: [Judges 13-15; Luke 6:27-49](#)

A young boy noticed a large black book all covered with dust lying on a high shelf. His curiosity was aroused, so he asked his mother about it. Embarrassed, she hastily explained, "That's a Bible. It's God's Book." The boy thought for a moment and then said, "Well, if that's God's Book, why don't we give it back to Him? Nobody around here uses it anyway."

In many homes, the Bible is hardly used or even thought about. The only time anyone picks it up to read it is when there's trouble, sickness, or a death in the family. And even then, the person may not know where to look for the help that's needed. How long has it been since you've picked up your Bible and studied it for your own enjoyment, edification, and spiritual growth? Yes, it's God's Book—but He doesn't want it back. He wants you to keep it, to ponder it, to understand it, to believe it, and to obey its message.

That's the primary reason for this booklet, *Our Daily Bread*. Each devotional article is intended to help you understand God's Word.

Did you read today's Scripture passage? If not, why not do so right now? Don't let the Bible become the forgotten Book in your home.

*Meditate:* O let me love my Bible more  
And take a fresh delight  
By day to read these wonders o'er  
And meditate by night.

*Aphorism:* The more you read the Bible, the more you'll love its Author.

**\*April 02 (Sunday), 2009** { [Matthew 25:34-46](#) } Key: He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given. (Proverbs 19:17) "A Loan To The Lord" Bible In One Year: [Judges 16-18; Luke 7:1-30](#)

A father gave his little boy 50 cents and told him he could use it any way he wanted. Later when Dad asked about it, the boy told him that he had lent it to someone. "Who did you lend it to?" he asked. The boy answered, "I gave it to a poor man on the street because he looked hungry."

"Oh, that was foolish. You'll never get it back," replied the father. "But Daddy, the Bible says that people who give to the poor lend to the Lord."

The father was so pleased with the son's reply that he gave the boy another 50 cents. "See," said the son. "I told you I would get it back—only I didn't think it would be so soon!"

Has the Lord ever asked you for a loan? Have you ever recognized in the needs of others a direct request from heaven for some of what you have? The Bible warns against the sin of passing by the needy with pious words while keeping a tight grip on our wallets (James 2:14-17). And Galatians 6:10 says that we are to "do good to all."

We aren't promised that we'll get rewarded immediately. But in Jesus' teaching to His followers about His return, He says we will be rewarded for giving of ourselves to others in His name (Matthew 25:34-46).

*Meditate:* Give as you would to the Master  
If you met His searching look;  
Give as you would of your substance  
If His hand your offering took!

*Aphorism:* You may give without loving but you can't love without giving.

**\*April 03 (Monday), 2009** { [John 11:14-27](#) } Key: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection

and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." (John 11:25) "Death Cannot Divide Us" Bible In One Year: [Judges 19-21; Luke 7:31-50](#)

Although writers and philosophers have done their best to marshal weighty arguments in favor of life after death, they have not succeeded in bringing comfort to aching, anxious, questioning hearts.

Jesus, however, does not fail to satisfy us. He brings forth no philosophical arguments. He does not try to prove the reasonableness of immortality; He simply declares it! He speaks of what He knows, and answers with the authority of heaven: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). This resurrection has two aspects. The bodies of believers will be raised, and their spirits will also live on in heaven.

What does this mean for grieving Christians whose believing loved ones have died? Death does not sever our love for them, for love belongs to the spirit and not to the body. And when those we love go on a long journey, their thoughts can span the distance as though it were a step, and their love enfolds us as though they stood beside us. So it is today with our dear departed ones.

Are you sorrowing over one who has been called to heaven? Jesus promises that we will be reunited one day, when God gives us back our precious loved ones.

*Meditate:* When from the dead God raised His Son And called Him to the sky, He gave our souls a living hope That they should never die!

*Aphorism:* Christ has replaced the dark door of death with the shining gate of life.

\***April 04 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) } Key: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8) "Shrike System" Bible In One Year: [Ruth 1-4; Luke 8:1-25](#)

The ancient sport of falconry used trained hawks or falcons in the pursuit of wild game. When the "educated predator" was allowed to fly, however, it often rose too high for human eyes to see. So a hunter often carried a small caged bird called a shrike. By watching the antics of the little bird, the man could always tell where his hawk was, for the shrike instinctively feared the predator and cocked its head to keep it in view.

Christians desperately need an alert perception similar to that of the shrike to detect their spiritual enemy. Our adversary, Satan, "walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Our responsibility, according to the apostle Peter, is to be sober and vigilant. In other words, we're to be always on the alert.

It would be nice if God had giant sirens to warn us of an attack by the devil. But He doesn't operate that way. Instead, we must read the Bible regularly, meditate on its truths, maintain a prayerful attitude throughout the day, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Only then will we be sensitive to an imminent assault by the evil one, and be armed by grace to meet it.

*Meditate:* The devil is clever, deceiving us all, He cunningly causes the strongest to fall; But we his sly methods are sure to discern By making God's warnings our daily concern.

*Aphorism:* He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. —1 John 4:4

\***April 05 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Psalm 121](#) } Key: I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:8) "Always Awake" Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 1-3; Luke 8:26-56](#)

A mother and her 4-year-old daughter were preparing for bed. The child was afraid of the dark. When the lights were turned off, the girl noticed the moon shining through the window. "Mommy," she asked, "is that God's light up there?" "Yes, it is," came the reply. Soon another question: "Will He put it out and go to sleep too?" "Oh no, He never goes to sleep." After a few silent moments, the little girl said, "As long as God is awake, I'm not scared." Realizing that the Lord would be watching over her, the reassured child soon fell into a peaceful sleep.

As Christians, we may confidently commit both the night and the day to our ever-faithful God. He is fully aware of our fears in the dark as well as our frustrations in the light. We can be assured of His constant care. His loving eye and protecting hand are always upon us.

Perhaps you face lonely hours because of illness or the loss of a loved one. The shadows of the night make the anxiety of your situation seem greater than ever. Doubts arise and fears flood your soul, robbing you of your needed rest.

Trust the heavenly Father, and with the psalmist you will be able to say, "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8). Remember, God is always awake.

*Meditate.*In His care confiding I will sweetly sleep, For the Lord my Savior Will in safety keep.

*Aphorism.*If you have trouble getting to sleep, try resting in the Lord.