

Bible study for this week 4/06/09~4/12/09

***April06(Monday),2009** { [Isaiah 53](#) } Key: He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities. (Isaiah 53:5) "Wounded For Me" Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 4-6; Luke 9:1-17](#)

A man who was deeply troubled by his sins was having a vivid dream in which he saw Jesus being savagely whipped by a soldier. As the cruel scourge came down upon Christ's back, the onlooker shuddered, for the terrible cords left ugly, gaping wounds upon His bleeding, swollen body. When the one wielding the lash raised his arm to strike the Lord again, the man rushed forward to stop him. As he did, the soldier turned, and the dreamer was startled to see his own face!

He awoke in a cold sweat, conscious that his sin had inflicted this grievous punishment upon the Savior. As he thought of Christ's suffering, he remembered these words in Isaiah 53:5, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

How wonderful that the Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died to redeem a sinful and lost world! He was wounded for our transgressions. "All we like sheep have gone astray," but praise God, "the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

In one sense, Good Friday was the darkest day in human history. But because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, the cross was actually the greatest victory of all the ages!

Meditate: Wounded for me, wounded for me, There on the cross He was wounded for me; Gone my transgressions, and now I am free, All because Jesus was wounded for me.

Aphorism. Christ was delivered for our sins that we might be delivered from our sins.

***April07(Tuesday),2009** { [Matthew 11:20-30](#) } Key: Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28) "They Wouldn't Let Me!" Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 7-9; Luke 9:18-36](#)

A woman was trapped on the top floor of a burning building. Flames and smoke blocked every way of escape. When firefighters arrived, one of the men scrambled up a ladder to the window where the woman was screaming for help, and with outstretched arms he offered to save her. But when she looked down and saw the great distance to the ground below, she panicked and drew back into the room.

The man attempting the rescue begged her to trust him for her safety, but his pleas were not heeded. In senseless fear she retreated beyond the fireman's reach. Finally, being forced to return to the ground, he said with tears in his eyes, "I did everything I could to save her, but she wouldn't let me!"

Those words made me think of the spiritual peril facing so many people. Jesus longs to forgive their sins, but they stubbornly resist His offer of salvation. By refusing to trust Him, they are like the woman who perished in the flames even though she could have escaped.

Dear friend, right now believe on the Lord Jesus! He invites you to come to Him (Matthew 11:28). Don't be among those of whom the Lord must say, "I did everything I could to save them, but they wouldn't let Me!"

Meditate: Why do you wait, dear brother? The harvest is passing away; Your Savior is longing to bless you, There's danger and death in delay.

Aphorism. Faith is the hand that receives God's gift.

***April08(Wednesday),2009** { [Philippians 3:1-11](#) } Key: For to me, to live is Christ, and to

die is gain. (Philippians 1:21)“What Keeps Us Going?”Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 10-12; Luke 9:37-62](#)

Isaac Asimov tells the story of a rough ocean crossing during which a Mr. Jones became terribly seasick. At an especially rough time, a kindly steward patted Jones on the shoulder and said, "I know, sir, that it seems awful. But remember, no man ever died of sea-sickness." Mr. Jones lifted his green countenance to the steward's concerned face and replied, "Man, don't say that! It's only the wonderful hope of dying that keeps me alive."

There's more in Jones' words than a touch of irony. I hear echoes of Paul's words to the Philippians. He said that the wonderful hope of dying kept him going (1:21). Yet he wasn't merely looking for relief from his suffering. Paul's hope was rooted in Christ, who died on the cross for sinners, who rose from the grave that first Easter morn, who was alive in heaven, and who would one day take Paul into His presence.

But how did the hope of seeing Christ, either at death or when He returned, keep Paul going? It gave meaning to every moment. It gave him reason to live in behalf of Christ. It gave him incentive to focus on others who needed his encouragement. Paul had come to know Christ as his very life.

Father, thank You for the risen Christ—our reason for living.

Meditate: A wonderful joy is now flooding my heart, Giving assurance that will not depart. My Savior is living and reigning above; Life has rich meaning because of His love.

*Aphorism:*Those who are prepared to die are most prepared to live.

***April09(Thursday),2009**{ [Genesis 45:1-13](#)}Key Do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.:(Genesis 45:5)“The Memory Of Past Sins”Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 13-14; Luke 10:1-24](#)

When Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers who had sold him into slavery, they were speechless and "dismayed in his presence" (Genesis 45:3). Fear and guilt quickly reminded them of the heartache they had caused their aged father Jacob, as well as their brother. Joseph, sensing what was going on in their hearts, immediately reassured them before the seeds of self-blame could take root. He said, "Do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here" (v.5). Joseph knew that God had used his trials for the good of many people.

When we sin and hurt others, we find ourselves in a position similar to that of Joseph's brothers. It's then that the Holy Spirit reminds us of the price Jesus paid on the cross for our offenses. He says, in effect, "Don't be grieved or angry with yourselves."

If you tend to keep blaming yourself after you've acknowledged your sins to God, think about what you're doing. You are keeping alive the memory of your sins by your anger at yourself. To overcome this, focus on the Savior, not on your sin. Think about what *He* has done, not what *you* have done. Because Jesus forgives your sin, you can "forget" your sin.

*Meditate:*Blessed be the name of Jesus! I'm so glad He took me in; He's forgiven my transgressions, He has cleansed my heart from sin.

*Aphorism:*Guilt is a burden God never intended His children to bear.

***April10(Friday),2009**{ [Mark 2:1-12](#)}Key: When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."(Mark 2:5)“Convicting Word”Bible In One

Year: [1 Samuel 15-16; Luke 10:25-42](#)

A young cowboy with no regard for God traveled to San Francisco and began a life of revelry, spending the money he had earned while working on the range. One night he staggered to his hotel room and slept until late the next day. When he awoke, he saw a small book on a nightstand near his bed and picked it up. It was the gospel of Mark. Disgusted, he threw it on the floor.

That evening, the book had once again been laid beside the bed. When he saw it in the same place the third day, he decided to read it. He found the book so interesting he couldn't lay it aside. He later testified, "I learned that the Son of God said to a paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' and praised a poor widow for giving her last two coins. I was impressed when Jesus took little children in His arms and blessed them. And then, in spite of the unjust way He was treated, He went to the cross to save sinners. When I read why He died, I saw my own guilt and found peace in believing." From that day forward, that cowboy became a different man and spent many years giving copies of the book of Mark to others.

We too must reach as many as possible with the convicting Word. The gospel is truly powerful.

Meditate: O what joy awaits you, sinner, When you heed Christ's "Come to Me." To each seeking soul He whispers, "I have now forgiven thee!"

Aphorism: The gospel is sent to break hard hearts and to heal broken ones.

***April 11 (Saturday), 2009** { [Psalm 71:9-18](#) } Key: At evening time it shall happen that it will be light. (Zechariah 14:7) "The Glorious Sunset" Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 17-18; Luke 11:1-28](#)

It is wonderful to be young, with clear sight, acute hearing, elastic step, pulses drumming to the march of exhilarating health. But old age has glories that youth cannot know. It is a blessed old age indeed if it ends brightly at evening time.

Old age celebrates the harvest—youth the sowing. Like fruit in the fall, the harvest of old age will either dry up and wither, or grow mellow and sweeter as it ripens. You cannot escape the advancing years. Youth stays long enough only to strengthen our shoulders for the burdens ahead. Life leads inevitably to the evening time. But the best things are the oldest things—things that have endured and stood the test of time. God Himself—though not bound by time—is called the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9).

So don't be ashamed to own your age. Everything that abides must become old: mountains, rivers, oceans, stars.

But the evening time of life can be bright only if we have the One who is the Light as our evening Sun. Nothing is sadder than an aging person facing eternity without Jesus. And nothing is sweeter than a gently mellowing Christian, still growing and resting in Christ as he faces God's tomorrow with confidence.

Meditate: So I journey with rejoicing Toward the city of God's light, While each day my joy is deeper, And the pathway grows more bright.

Aphorism: It is a strange thing that, while all would live long, none would be old.

***April 12 (Sunday), 2009** { [2 Kings 20:12-21](#) } Key: A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor. (Proverbs 29:23) "The Hidden Rattler" Bible In One Year: [1 Samuel 19-21; Luke 11:29-54](#)

When I was a boy, our family lived on a farm. One spring, we killed 13 rattlesnakes in a brief period of time.

A rattler can be easily destroyed if you know where it is and how far it can reach when it strikes. So my brothers and I never worried about the snakes we could see. We were genuinely concerned, however, about stepping on one whose presence we had not detected.

King Hezekiah was subtly "bitten" by a hidden temptation, not seduced by a gross and obvious evil. He allowed a measure of pride and self-reliance to blight his career. He should have put his full trust in the Lord for protection from his enemies, but instead he sought safety through an alliance with idolatrous men (2 Chronicles 32:25,31).

It's too bad that this otherwise good king marred his reign by this sin. We need to be on guard lest we allow pride to build up in our hearts until we, like Hezekiah, succumb to the wiles of the enemy. We may be prepared to stand against obvious invitations to sin that would besmirch our name, but we may not be ready for life's subtle temptations.

Beware of "hidden rattlers"—they're the most dangerous of all!

*Meditate:*The devil has many enticements, There's danger wherever you go; But if you are tempted in weakness, Ask God for more grace, and say, "No!"

*Aphorism:*If you want to master temptation, let Christ master you.