

Bible study for this week 5/11/09~5/17/09

***May11(Monday),2009**{ [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#)}Key: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:7)“Your Biography”Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 13-14; John 2](#)

When D. L. Moody was moving into old age, he was asked to grant permission for his biography. Moody refused, saying, “A man’s life should never be written while he is living. What is important is how a man ends, not how he begins.”

For better or worse, I have failed to follow that dictum. My biography has been published. Yet I agree with Moody that the way our lives end is the crucial test of authentic discipleship. Only if we remain in a steadfast relationship with the Savior can we be confident not merely of entering heaven, but of obtaining the victor’s crown (1 Corinthians 9:25).

Paul was concerned about the possibility of being disapproved by his Lord (v.27). He was a redeemed believer who was serving the Lord, yet he feared that his service might prove to be wood, hay, and straw rather than gold, silver, and precious stones (1 Corinthians 3:12-13).

What will be the Lord’s appraisal of our lives? Will someone evaluating us be able to say honestly that we continued to bear fruit in old age? (Psalm 92:14). Whatever vocation we pursue, with the help of the Holy Spirit we may be “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Meditate: Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful, May the fire of our devotion light their way; May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe, And the lives we live inspire them to obey.

Aphorism:For the ignorant, old age is as winter; for the learned, it is a harvest.

***May12(Tuesday),2009**{ [Psalm 34:11-22](#)}Key: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. (3 John 1:4)“The Legacy”Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 15-16; John 3:1-18](#)

Her writing career spanned three decades, from the mid-1960s through the mid-1990s. She wrote 12 books and received 16 honorary doctorate degrees. But 3 years before she died of cancer in 1996, popular humorist Erma Bombeck told an ABC TV interviewer that no matter how many columns she had written, her legacy would be her three children. “If I did a bad job with them,” she said, “then everything else [I] do isn’t very important.”

Bombeck had riches and fame and the goodwill of millions of readers, but she realized that her top priority was taking care of her children.

Although no parent can be guaranteed that his or her child will turn out to be a godly model citizen, those of us who are parents must start with Erma’s attitude. Our motivation is to provide spiritually, physically, and emotionally for our children. They will be our legacy.

That means introducing them to the Savior, providing spiritual guidance (Psalm 34:11-14), praying for them, and encouraging them to find mentors who can guide them in godly living.

Sometimes it’s a battle. Often it’s expensive in time and toil. But the value of a child overshadows it all.

Meditate: Our children are a gift from God To nurture and to love; They need our help in guiding them To turn their thoughts above.

Aphorism:Little children are of great value to God.

***May13(Wednesday),2009** { [Luke 5:27~32](#) } Key: [Jesus] said to him, “Follow Me.”(Luke 5:27)“Leader Or Follower?”Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 17~18; John 3:19~38](#)

A close friend asked Gandhi, “If you admire Christ so much, why don’t you become a Christian?” It is said that he replied, “When I meet a Christian who is a follower of Christ, I may consider it.”

But isn’t that what a Christian is supposed to be—a follower of Christ? Joe Stowell, former president of Moody Bible Institute, wrote in *Following Christ*: “Many of us live out our faith as though [Christ] exists to follow us. We come to believe that Christ exists to satisfy our demands. . . . This disguised form of self-serving religion sets Christ up as just one more commodity in life that will enhance and empower our dreams.”

When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, He meant that He would do the leading and directing; they would do the following (Luke 5:27). Like the disciples, we must give up our will, obey Him, and choose to “lose” our lives for Him (17:33).

Without too much thought, this might sound simple. But in reality, it is impossible to do on our own. Only by choosing each day to let go of our own plans and by trusting the Holy Spirit’s leading can we cooperate with His work in us.

This is God’s way of teaching us to become His submissive followers instead of the leader.

Meditate: Because Christ is the One who holds The key to all our needs, We can release what we hold dear To follow where He leads.

Aphorism: To lead others to Jesus, you must first learn to follow Him.

***May14(Thursday),2009** { [Proverbs 31:26-31](#) } Key: She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. (Proverbs 31:26)“A Mother’s Strength”Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 19-21; John 4:1-30](#)

A friend remembers:My wife Carolyn and I were walking in a park one morning when we spotted a mother squirrel scurrying along a power line with her baby in her mouth. She delivered the little squirrel to a new nest she had built in a tree. Then she ran back across the wire to fetch another baby from the old nest and transport it to its new home. Back and forth she scampered until she had deposited all six of her babies in their new home. “Being a mother is hard work!” Carolyn mused.

Indeed it is. The labor to bring a child into the world is only the beginning. How essential it is that she take care of herself spiritually so she can take care of her children! Of all concerns, the care for her soul is the greatest—to grow in wisdom and in the knowledge of God.

Susanna Wesley was a busy mother with 19 children, yet she set aside time each day to meet with God. Some days she spent that time in a chair with her apron over her head, praying. Woe be to the child who disturbed her!

The woman described in Proverbs 31 placed a high value on wisdom, kindness, and a respect for the Lord (vv.26,30). This Mother’s Day, let’s honor the women in our lives who share their wisdom, show us kindness, and who seek above all to honor the Lord.

Meditate: Though other scenes may be forgot, While life shall last, this one cannot; When mother prayed! O peace divine! My mother’s God today is mine.

Aphorism: God bless my mother; . . . all I am I owe to her.

***May15(Friday),2009** { [Exodus 12:21-30](#) } Key: The Lord will . . . not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. (Exodus 12:23)“L’Chayim!”Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 22-23; John 4:31-54](#)

One people remember :My friends Deb and Bryce were invited by some Jewish friends to attend their *seder* dinner. This is a celebration held by Jewish families to commemorate the first Passover in Egypt (Exodus 12:24-27). The entire family becomes involved, including the little children.

Deb and Bryce expected a somber evening, but they discovered a joyous celebration. At the beginning of the meal, a piece of bread was halved. One half was shared by the guests; the other half was hidden by the youngest family member. All the adults searched for it, to the child's delight. When the bread was not discovered, it was ransomed by the child amid great laughter. Then followed an evening of stories and songs, and the oft-repeated phrase: "L'Chayim! To life!"

Why not a joyous celebration? The Passover marks the deliverance of Israel from slavery and the "destroyer."

The Passover meal Jesus and His disciples shared the night before His death was a celebration too, but with serious overtones. It signaled the beginning of the events that led to His sacrifice and our redemption from sin and Satan.

From spiritual slavery to spiritual freedom. From death to life. As we celebrate our deliverance, we too can say with joy to one another, "L'Chayim! To life!"

Meditate: I am not afraid of being declared guilty today, I belong to and rescue mainly he belongs to me; Live forever and rescue and mainly grant the life, put on the common justice robe for me.

Aphorism: Deliverance from sin is the greatest of all freedoms.

***May16(Saturday),2009** { [Leviticus 26:3,12-16](#) } Key: I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright.(Leviticus 26:13)"Walking Tall"Bible In One Year: [2 Kings 24-25; John 5:1-24](#)

During my basic training in the Army, our drill sergeant worked hard week after week to transform us from a group of slouching civilians into a company of men who stood straight and walked tall. It was not an easy job. When he finally said, "You're looking good!" we felt proud of who we were and how we had changed.

That experience came to mind when I read Leviticus 26:13, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright." After 400 years of slavery and hard labor, the people of Israel were burdened and discouraged. But under Moses, God led them out of bondage and put them on the road to a new life of freedom through obedience to Him.

It's a vivid reminder of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. Paul wrote: "Stand fast . . . in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).

We don't need to be bowed down with our sin. As we embrace the freedom of righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, we can hold our heads high and keep walking tall.

Meditate: May I stand firm, O God of truth, For all that pleases Thee; Undaunted by the critic's frown, Let nothing hinder me.

Aphorism: There are no deadends on the road of obedience to God.

***May17(Sunday),2009** { [Hebrews 5:12-14](#) } Key: Solid food belongs to those . . . who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:14)"A Rusty Mind"Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 1-3; John 5:25-47](#)

Leonardo da Vinci's contributions to art, science, and engineering establish him as one of the great geniuses in history. Whether it be designing a flying machine or painting the *Mona Lisa*, his mind was alive, observant, and creative. He is credited with making this comment about maintaining mental sharpness: "Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity; . . . even so does inaction sap the vigor of the mind."

It is also possible to become stagnant in our Christian life. This is what happened to the recipients of the book of Hebrews. The inspired author saw the symptoms and knew the cure. "Solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14).

The word *exercised* is from the Greek *gymnasium* and relates to our idea of a disciplined workout. The Christian life is to be one of growing in knowledge so that we learn to choose the right path. And we do that by looking into the Word of God.

Take a fresh look at the Bible and ask God for new insights on how it affects your relationship with Him and with others. Work at staying spiritually fit.

Meditate: Search the Scripture's precious store—As a miner digs for ore, Search, and you will surely find Treasures to enrich your mind.

Aphorism: Spiritual growth requires the solid food of God's Word.