

## **Bible study for this week** 5/25/09~5/31/09

\***May25(Monday),2009**{ [Matthew 15:17-20](#)}Key :He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. (Proverbs 13:3) Words That Defile ""Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 25-27; John 9:1-23](#)

Recently I overheard an older woman speaking to a friend about the current obsession with dieting. "These days," she mused, "I'm more concerned with what comes out of my mouth than what goes into it." There's a world of wisdom in those words.

Jesus put it this way: "Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man" (Matthew 15:18-20).

What we say affects others. "There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword," says Proverbs 12:18. But what we may overlook is the effect our reckless words have on us. When we gossip, or when we malign others, our words begin to ruin us, for we gratify the evil that is in us and strengthen it until it overthrows us.

On the contrary, when we guard our lips we strike a blow at this malevolence. "The tongue of the wise promotes health," continues Proverbs 12:18. We protect our souls, for we weaken the very thing that lies in wait to ruin us.

Ask God to "set a guard" over your mouth and "keep watch over the door" of your lips (Psalm 141:3). Let your words promote life, not destruction.

**Meditate:** Guard well your lips, for none can know What evils from the tongue may flow; What guilt, what grief may be incurred By one uncautious, evil word.

**Aphorism:** A word from your mouth speaks volumes about your heart.

\***May26(Tuesday),2009**{ [Psalm 96](#)}Key: Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. (Psalm 96:2)"Daily Devotion"Bible In One Year: [1 Chronicles 28-29; John 9:24-41](#)

Tiger Woods has won many dramatic tournament victories during his professional golf career. But one of his greatest achievements went virtually unnoticed because it unfolded slowly over 7 years. During that period, Tiger qualified in 142 consecutive tournaments—more than any other player in the history of US professional golf. It speaks to the power of his commitment and consistency, and to his conviction never to give up.

Recently I was challenged by a friend's statement of his growing desire to follow the Lord with "daily rather than dramatic devotion." Is that how it is in my life of faith in Jesus Christ? Am I consistent or erratic? Am I dependable or unreliable?

There are great spiritual events in our lives, but our daily choices to obey Christ best express our ongoing love for Him. Psalm 96, a ringing call to witness and praise, says: "Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples" (vv.2-3).

When we are consistently devoted to the Lord, we will proclaim His love and power day after day. Over time, a life of daily loyalty will become a magnificent testimony to our Savior.

**Meditate:** Jesus I will learn from You, Obey You day by day; I'll be your faithful follower And serve you on the way.

**Aphorism:** To be a disciple is to be a loyal subject of the King of kings.

\***May27(Wednesday),2009**{ [Job 37:14-19](#)}Key: Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused. (1 Timothy 4:4)"Earthworms And Fruit"Bible In One Year: [2](#)

### [Chronicles 1-3; John 10:1-23](#)

Have you ever wondered why God made a particular creature, like mosquitos or snakes? I've often wondered about earthworms. Why did God form such creepy crawlers?

Actually, worms have an indispensable function to fulfill. Amy Stuart, in her book *The Earth Moved: On The Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms* tells us that in an average acre of ground there are countless earthworms continually breaking up the soil. Their silent and invisible activity is absolutely essential—no worms, no vegetation.

What, then, can we learn from earthworms? Not only in nature but also in our lives there are invisible forces at work. There is the silent and unseen work of prayer by those who are concerned about our well-being. There is the work of our own spiritual discipline, as we pray and meditate on God's Word. And there is the vital work of the Holy Spirit, breaking up the clogged soil of our souls and producing in us the Christlike fruit of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering . . ." (Galatians 5:22-23).

In our lives and in our world, God has ordained unseen influences that bear fruit. Whether it's the lowly earthworm or the crown of God's creation—the human race—there is so much more at work than meets the eye.

**Meditate:** All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small, All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.

**Aphorism:** God's unseen work in our hearts produces fruit in our lives.

\***May28(Thursday),2009** { [Ephesians 6:10-18](#) } Key: Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11:14) "The Angel Of Music" Bible In One Year: [2](#)

### [Chronicles 4-6; John 10:24-42](#)

In Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, a young chorus girl named Christine Daae receives voice training from a mysterious musician she calls the "Angel of Music." Christine believes this is the angel her dying father had promised to send to complete her musical training.

As the plot thickens, we find that her mysterious mentor is really a demented man who wants to carry her away into a bizarre underworld beneath the opera house. What the girl thinks is a supernatural agent sent by her beloved father is really a madman who wants to possess her for his own ends. The "Angel of Music" is evil masquerading as good.

The believer in Christ also faces an evil one who masquerades. One of Satan's key strategies is to look like someone who is good. Paul told us, "Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light" (2 Corinthians 11:14). The Greek word translated as "transforms" means "to change appearance, masquerade, or disguise oneself."

In preparing us to face the evil strategies of the devil, God has provided all the equipment we need to stand our ground. Protecting ourselves with the armor of God unmasks the evil that opposes us and stabilizes our spiritual walk (Ephesians 6:10-18).

**Meditate:** When you're making a decision, Evil sometimes wears a mask; Trust the Lord for true discernment—He'll give wisdom if you ask.

**Aphorism:** God's armor is tailor-made for us, but we must put it on.

\***May29(Friday),2009** { [Matthew 26:6-13](#) } Key: What this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her. (Matthew 26:13) "A Blessed Memorial" Bible In One Year: [2](#)

### [Chronicles 7-9; John 11:1-29](#)

Certain names from the past can elicit a variety of responses. The mention of Hitler, for example, brings feelings of contempt. On the other hand, a great historical figure like Churchill brings a positive response. Even within the circle of our own acquaintances, we

remember some individuals with thankfulness, while we think negatively of others whose lives were spent in selfish pursuits.

On Memorial Day in the US, we pause to honor those of past generations. While many stirring recollections flood our minds, we realize that the time will come when each of us will also be a memory. What will others recall of our words and deeds when they think of us?

I once read about James Lewis Pettigru. His life was so exemplary that after his death the community erected a tombstone in his honor inscribed with these words:

UNAWAYED BY OPINION, UNSEDUCED BY FLATTERY, UNDISMAYED BY DISASTER, HE CONFRONTED LIFE WITH COURAGE, AND DEATH WITH CHRISTIAN HOPE.

What will your memorial be? Determine by the grace of God to live for Him and give yourself to the needs of others. Then your testimony will become a blessing and inspiration to all who follow in your steps.

**Meditate:** What have you written on memory's page? Deeds that were done in the Master's name? Words that were spoken to spread His fame? What have you written today?

**Aphorism:** Will your memorial be a blessing or a blot?

\***May30(Saturday),2009**{ [Psalm 19:1-6](#) }Key: The heavens are the work of Your hands. (Psalm 102:25)“Beyond Amazing”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 10-12; John 11:30-57](#)

In 1977, the United States launched a rocket into space. On board was a small craft called *Voyager I*, a probe that was jettisoned into space to explore the planets. After *Voyager* was done sending back photos and data from the planet Jupiter and its neighbors, it didn't stop working. It just kept going.

Today, almost 30 years later, that tiny vehicle is still going—traveling at a speed of over 38,000 miles per hour. And it's nearly 9 billion miles from the sun. That's mind-boggling! Brilliant scientists have sent a ship to the edge of our solar system. It's astounding. It's amazing.

But it's absolutely puny when compared with what God has done. It would be like hearing someone brag to the architect of the Empire State Building that he had traveled to the second floor.

We have barely begun to explore the vastness of God's creation. But every small step by mankind should continue to put us in absolute awe of God's power and creativity. Think of this: While we have left the realm of one star with a spaceship, the Creator of the stars “calls them all by name” (Isaiah 40:26). After all, He made them.

Exploring the universe is amazing. But exploring the God who made it all: That's *beyond* amazing!

**Meditate:**I sing the mighty power of God That made the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad And built the lofty skies.

**Aphorism:**The wonder of it all—just to think that God loves me.

\***May31(Sunday),2009**{ [Ecclesiastes 4:8-12](#) }Key: Two are better than one. (Ecclesiastes 4:9)“Hold Hands And Jump!”Bible In One Year: [2 Chronicles 13-14; John 12:1-26](#)

When Leo and Amy opened a 300-seat, fine-dining restaurant, Leo admitted he was “scared of everything.” Amy equates their leap of faith in starting their business to holding hands while jumping off a mountain. But if you're going to do something scary, “you want to do it with someone you know and trust,” Leo continued.

Chris and Karie, another couple who took a risk to own and run a restaurant together, say they have “a good working relationship, as well as mutual admiration for each other’s work.”

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, knew how crucial it is to have companions in life. He wrote, “Two are better than one” (Ecclesiastes 4:9). When one falls during a difficult time, another provides comfort and support (vv.10-12). We need our spouses and friends to help us through the scary times and to provide emotional support. Loners make life harder for themselves (v.8). But those who recognize their need for others find help and encouragement.

If you need to take a leap of faith—something involving finances, a career change, a new ministry—invite someone trustworthy to hold your hand as you make that jump. Or give that same encouragement to someone close to you. Because two *really are* better than one.

***Meditate:*** We are dependent on the strength We draw from one another; Words spoken give encouragement, Love practiced draws us closer.

***Aphorism:*** Those who trust God can help others to do the same.