

Bible study for this week 6/15/09~6/21/09

***June 15 (Monday), 2009** { [Romans 6:1-14](#) } Key: Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it. (Romans 6:12) “Your Death” Bible In One Year: [Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-21](#)

Cathy and 8,500 other patients of a local hospital received their bills, along with some shocking news: They had died!

Cathy said, “I was pretty sure I was not dead, but you never know.” She said the hospital explained that it was just a computer glitch. “All it has amounted to so far,” she added, “is a pretty funny story to tell and a small annoyance.”

You may be surprised to learn about your own “death” when you read Romans 6:6, “Our old man was crucified with [Christ], . . . that we should no longer be slaves of sin.” If you are a follower of Jesus, you “died to sin” (v.2). But we know that we still sin, even though we belong to Christ.

So, what does it mean to be “crucified with Him”? It means we no longer have to be overpowered by temptation. We can choose to obey God through His power.

Commentator Thomas Schreiner says, “Believers will not experience perfect deliverance from sin in this age, so that they never sin at all. What has been shattered is not the *presence* of sin but the *mastery* of sin over believers.”

We can now “walk in newness of life” (v.4). One day, when we are resurrected to live with the Lord, we’ll be removed from the presence of sin forever.

Meditate: The Savior can break sin’s dominion, The victory He won long ago; In Him there is freedom from bondage, He’s able to conquer the foe.

Aphorism: Our greatest freedom is freedom from sin.

***June 16 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Psalm 93](#) } Key: Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory. (Revelation 19:6-7) “God Reigns” Bible In One Year: [Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:22-47](#)

I remember well the shock and grief I felt in 1968 when Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles. People everywhere, regardless of their political affiliation, were numb with grief and horror. Coming so soon after the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, made it even more tragic.

Yet after Senator Kennedy’s funeral in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the walls echoed with the triumphant words of Handel’s *Messiah*: “The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, . . . and He shall reign for ever and ever.”

These words do not suggest that God willed the assassination. They are a triumphant affirmation that in spite of such events, God achieves all His good purposes. People do things that anger and grieve Him. But He is at work bringing good out of evil, light out of darkness, joy out of pain, order out of chaos, and life out of death.

In Psalm 93, the pounding waves of the seas that “have lifted up their voice” represent humanity in turmoil and opposition to God (v.3). They sometimes seem to be winning the battle. But the Lord is “mightier than the noise of many waters” (v.4). One day He will completely vanquish all opposition and usher in the perfect eternal world He has promised us. Our God reigns! Hallelujah!

Meditate: Our God is an awesome God! He reigns from heaven above With wisdom, power, and love—Our God is an awesome God!

Aphorism: The more clearly we see God’s sovereignty, the less perplexed we are by man’s calamities.

***June 17 (Wednesday), 2009** { [2 Corinthians 4:16-18](#) } Key: Our light affliction . . . is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. (2 Corinthians 4:17) “A Little Perspective” Bible In One Year: [Nehemiah 7-9; Acts 3](#)

A college student wrote a startling letter to her parents: *Dear Mom and Dad:*

I have so much to tell you. Because of the fire in my room set by rioting students, I suffered lung damage and had to go to the hospital. While there, I fell in love with an orderly. Then I got arrested for my part in the riots. Anyway, I'm dropping out of school, getting married, and moving to Alaska. Your loving daughter

PS: None of this really happened, but I did flunk a chemistry class, and I wanted you to keep it in perspective.

We might question this student's method of breaking bad news to her parents, but her approach highlights a truth: Proper perspective is essential.

When Paul encouraged the church in Corinth, he wrote a litany of his own very real trials and tribulations. To gain perspective, he shifted his focus to the eternal. “Our light affliction,” he said, “is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

In some ways, our perspective is more important than our experiences. Paul continued, “The things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (v.18). Our sufferings will diminish in importance when compared to the glory that awaits us.

Meditate: He promised no immunity from “chance”; Instead, a cross with adverse circumstance; Yet we may toil with joy in all we do, For life is brief—eternity's in view.

Aphorism: The supreme need in every hour of difficulty is a vision of God.

***June 18 (Thursday), 2009** { [1 John 4:12-19](#) } Key: There is no fear in love. (1 John 4:18) “Give Voice To Your Love” Bible In One Year: [Nehemiah 10-11; Acts 4:1-22](#)

In 1990 a TV documentary on the US Civil War attracted huge audiences. One program featured a letter by a soldier killed at the battle of Bull Run. Sullivan Ballou realized the peril he faced in the looming clash, so he wrote a poignant letter to his wife. In part he said, “If I do not return, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name.”

Men, more than women, often find it difficult to express deep emotions. They may squelch the impulse to put their tenderest feelings into words.

This Father's Day, many men will receive expressions of love, but they may have trouble voicing their love in return. Yet nothing is more masculine than to express love to our loved ones. That's true not only for fathers but for all of us. We can bestow no gift more precious to those who are wrapped up with us in the bundle of life.

“There is no fear in love,” wrote the apostle John, “but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). So let us boldly declare our love, not only for our loved ones but for the One who gave His life for us.

This Father's Day, emulate that courageous fallen Civil War hero and give voice to your love.

Meditate: For Fathers: Jot a note to someone you love, and express your love in your message. Set aside a day for your children this week.

Aphorism: You can never express your love too often.

***June 19 (Friday), 2009** { [Matthew 21:1-11](#) } Key: Behold, your King is coming to you,

lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Matthew 21:5)“Donkey Mentality”Bible In One Year: [Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 4:23-37](#)

A minister referred to Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem and asked: “What if the donkey on which Jesus was riding had thought all the cheering was for him? What if that small animal had believed that the hosannas and the branches were in his honor?”

The minister then pointed to himself and said: “I’m a donkey. The longer I’m here the more you’ll come to realize that. I am only a Christ-bearer and not the object of praise.”

In recording Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, Matthew referred to the prophecy of Zechariah: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey’” (Matthew 21:5; see Zechariah 9:9).

On Palm Sunday, the donkey was merely a Christ-bearer, bringing the Son of God into the city where He would give His life for the sins of the world.

If we could develop a healthy “donkey mentality,” what an asset that would be as we travel the road of life. Instead of wondering what people think of us, our concern would be, “Can they see Christ Jesus, the King?” Rather than seeking credit for service rendered, we would be content to lift up the Lord.

Meditate. O what can I give to the Master, The One who from sin set me free? I’ll give Him a lifetime of service To thank Him for dying for me.

Aphorism. A Christian’s life is a window through which others can see Jesus.

***June20(Saturday),2009**{ [Acts 5:17-29](#)}Key: Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.”(Acts 5:29)“Legal Versus Right”Bible In One Year: [Esther 1-2; Acts 5:1-21](#)

In his powerful book *Unspeakable*, Os Guinness wrestles with the problem of evil in the world. In one section, he focuses on the Nuremberg trials that followed World War II. The Nazis stood charged with crimes against humanity, and their mantra of defense was simple: “I was merely following orders.” The verdict, however, was that the soldiers had a moral obligation to defy orders that, though legal, were clearly wrong.

In a much different context, Peter and the disciples were arrested for presenting the message of the risen Christ and brought before the religious rulers in Jerusalem. Rather than allowing themselves to be shaped by the mood of the mob, the disciples declared their intention to continue preaching Christ.

The orders of the religious establishment may have been legal, but they were wrong. When the disciples chose to obey God rather than the godless religious leaders, they raised a standard of conviction that rose above the opinions of the rulers of this world.

The trials we face may test our commitment. But we will find opportunities to exalt the King if we trust Him for the strength to go beyond the words of the crowd-pleasers and do right as He defines it in His Word.

Meditate. Say not, “The days are evil. Who’s to blame?” And fold the hand and acquiesce—oh, shame! Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in God’s name, Be strong!

Aphorism. We must choose daily the way of the cross over the way of the crowd.

***June21(Sunday),2009**{ [1 Corinthians 13](#)}Key: Now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)“Love Never Fails”Bible In One Year: [Esther 3-5; Acts 5:22-42](#)

Poet Archibald MacLeish says that “love, like light, grows dearer towards the dark.” This is what he calls the “late, last wisdom of the afternoon.” The same is true of our love

for one another; it can indeed grow dearer as we age. I have seen it myself in two elderly friends.

Married for over 50 years, they are still very much in love. One is dying of pancreatic cancer; the other is dying of Parkinson's disease. Last week I saw Barbara lean over Claude's bed, kiss him, and whisper, "I love you." Claude replied, "You're beautiful."

I thought of couples who have given up on their marriages, who are unwilling to endure through better or worse, sickness or health, poverty or wealth, and I am saddened for them. They will miss the kind of love my friends enjoy in their latter years.

I have watched Claude and Barbara over the years, and I know that deep faith in God, lifelong commitment, loyalty, and self-denying love are the dominant themes of their marriage. They have taught me that true love never gives up, it "never fails." Theirs is the "late, last wisdom of the afternoon," and it will continue to the end. May we express that same unflinching love to those who love us.

Meditate: Lord, teach us the secret of loving, The love You are asking today; Then help us to love one another—For this we most earnestly pray.

Aphorism: Don't put off until tomorrow the loving words you can say today.