

Bible study for this week 6/29/09~7/05/09

***June 29 (Monday), 2009** { [Proverbs 13:1-14](#) } Key: The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. (Proverbs 13:14) "Warnings In The Word" Bible In One Year: [Job 14-16; Acts 9:22-43](#)

Swans frequently visit Mill Pond, England, where RBC Regional Director Howard Liverance lives. He writes, "It's a beautiful place . . . where ducks, geese, and other waterfowl frolic playfully." Yet even in this idyllic setting there has been danger. Across one corner of the pond are some power lines. A number of swans have been killed because they didn't see them as they approached the pond.

Howard talked with some people about this problem, and eventually the power company installed red flags on the lines. Now the swans can see the danger and avoid it. Since the red flags were installed, not a single swan has died.

God has provided some "red flags" for our protection. The book of Proverbs is filled with warnings about evil and encourages us to seek wisdom. In Proverbs 13:1-14, we find several red flags, including:

- Don't ignore instruction and rebuke (v.1).
- Guard your mouth (v.3).
- Beware of the pursuit of riches (v.7).
- Avoid dishonesty (v.11).
- Don't disrespect God's Word (v.13).

The Word of God "is a fountain of life, to turn [us] away from the snares of death" (v.14).

Meditate: For Further Study To learn more about the wisdom in the book of Proverbs.

Aphorism: God's warnings are to protect us, not to punish us.

***June 30 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Genesis 22:1-12](#) } Key: God tested Abraham. (Genesis 22:1) "Eight Cows On The Altar" Bible In One Year: [Job 17-19; Acts 10:1-23](#)

Pastor Ed Dobson was speaking to a congregation on "putting all on the altar" in total surrender to Christ. After the service, an old German farmer came forward. He told Dobson that he had eight cows that were dying, which would mean great financial loss, and he had been struggling with accepting this as God's will. Then he said, "Because of your message, I have found peace. Tonight I put them all on the altar."

Christ's lordship touches every area, every relationship, every concern of our lives. If we are willing to submit to Him, any loss in life will be seen as an opportunity of giving back to God what is rightfully His and trusting Him to provide what is needed.

When God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, He seemed to be undermining His own purposes. Isaac was the son of promise through whom God would bless the world. Yet Abraham's faith had grown strong over the years, and baffled though he must have been, he said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb" (Genesis 22:8).

The issue is the same for us. Can we entrust everything to God—our possessions, job, health, family? If we commit ourselves to Him each day and thank Him for every blessing, our confidence in Him will survive any test.

Meditate: You have longed for sweet peace and for faith to increase, And have earnestly, fervently prayed; But you cannot have rest or be perfectly blest Until all on the altar is laid.

Aphorism: Submission to God means taking our hands off what belongs to Him.

***July 01 (Wednesday), 2009** { [1 John 5:1~13](#) } Key: These things I have written to you who

believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)“**Taking God At His Word**”Bible In One Year: [Job 20~21; Acts 10:24~48](#)

Many true believers in Christ are plagued with doubt about their salvation. Even though they have come in repentance and faith to Jesus as their Savior, they still wonder, “Will I really go to heaven?”

A sister remembers:My late husband Bill often told about something that happened to him when he was 2 years old. One day he disobediently wandered from home and got lost. When his parents realized that he was missing, they went out searching for him. Finally, to everyone’s immense relief, they spotted their tearful boy and carried him safely home.

Days later, Billy overheard his mother relate this incident to a visitor. When she reached the part where they went out searching for him, Billy began to relive the story. “Mommy, Mommy!” he sobbed. “Did you ever find me?” Surprised and deeply touched by his doubt, she embraced him and said, “Of course, my child! Don’t you remember that happy moment? See, you’re with us now, and we’ll make sure that you always are.” That comforted Billy, because he took her at her word.

The New Testament letter of 1 John was written to give believers the assurance of salvation. That assurance can be yours as you take God at His word.

Meditate: Is it possible to be sure your sins are forgiven?

Aphorism:Christ’s work makes us safe; God’s Word makes us sure.

***July02(Thursday),2009**{ [Exodus 13:17~22; 14:19~20](#) }Key: The Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way. (Exodus 13:21)“**The Cloud And The Spirit**”Bible In One Year: [Job 22~24; Acts 11](#)

The Lord led the children of Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). Commentator Arthur Pink draws a significant parallel between this cloud in the wilderness and the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

Pink points out that just as the cloud was a gracious gift to the Israelites, so the Holy Spirit is a gift to the trusting child of God.

Jesus said, “I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper” (John 14:16). The pillar of cloud was provided to guide the children of Israel. So too, the Holy Spirit leads the Christian. Jesus said, “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” (16:13).

Even as the cloud remained with Israel in the wilderness, so Jesus promised that the Father would send the Spirit, who would “abide” with believers forever (14:16). Think of it! God Himself dwells within our hearts. We who know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are temples of His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

When we are led by the Spirit, our lives will be characterized by love, joy, peace, and self-control (Galatians 5:16,22~23). We will be effective witnesses for Christ as we travel through the wilderness of this world.

Meditate:Blest Holy Spirit from above With all Thy quickening powers Come, shed abroad the Savior’s love And that shall kindle ours.

Aphorism:The power that compels us comes from the Spirit who indwells us.

***July03(Friday),2009**{ [John 5:19~23](#) }Key: The Son can do nothing of Himself. (John 5:19)“**Becoming Useful**”Bible In One Year: [Job 25~27; Acts 12](#)

Jesus was fully God, yet He was fully man. As a man, His power, wisdom, and grace flowed not from His divine nature but from His utter dependence on God. “The Son can

do nothing of Himself,” He said (John 5:19). How much did Jesus do apart from God? Nothing!

Jesus always depended on His Father. Luke reports that as news of Jesus’ ministry spread, “Great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed” (Luke 5:15~16). He knew He needed those quiet times to restore His soul.

What’s done in secret is what matters. It’s during those quiet times that we, like Jesus, are shaped and molded and made into people that God can put to His intended use.

“But,” you say, “I’m in a place where I can’t be useful.” Perhaps you feel that circumstances limit you drastically. Illness, financial problems, a difficult boss or co-worker, or an uncooperative family member seem to conspire against you. Whatever your situation, use it to grow closer to the Savior.

Learn to have utter dependence on the Father, just as Jesus did. Leave it up to God to make you useful in whatever way He sees fit.

Meditate: O that my life may useful be As I serve Jesus faithfully; And may the world see Christ in me—This is my earnest prayer.

Aphorism: The measure of your usefulness is the measure of your faithfulness.

***July04(Saturday),2009**{ [1 Corinthians 6:12~20](#)}Key: Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit . . . , and you are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19)“Are You Free?”Bible In One Year: [Job 28~29; Acts 13:1~25](#)

Who owns you? When I ask myself that question, my first impulse is to dismiss it as nonsensical. With Paul, who enjoyed the rights and freedoms of a Roman citizen, I too can boast that I am free—at least politically.

Olav Olavson was a free citizen of Sweden, but he found himself hardpressed for money. So in desperation he sold his body for medical research to the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm in 1910. A year later, he inherited a fortune, so he tried to buy himself back. But the Institute refused to sell him his rights to his own body, and in a lawsuit they retained possession of it. The Institute even collected damages from him because he had two teeth extracted without permission.

All of us are slaves to sin and spiritually dead—unless we have been born again. We can be set free from the penalty and power of sin (and how I rejoice that I have been set free) by prayerfully asking Jesus Christ to become our Liberator. We experience spiritual freedom as we accept His gift of forgiveness and then offer ourselves as slaves to God (Romans 6:22).

What a blessed paradox! As God's slaves we enjoy a life of true freedom, peace, and hope.

Meditate: We were imprisoned by our sin, Controlled by evil ways; But then the Savior set us free To serve Him all our days.

Aphorism: To gain true freedom, give your life to Christ.

***July05(Sunday),2009**{ [Luke 8:4~15](#)}Key: Those who [hear] the Word with a noble and good heart keep it and bear fruit. (Luke 8:15)“What Kind Of Soil Are You?”Bible In One Year: [Job 30~31; Acts 13:26~52](#)

A new resident at the drug rehabilitation center where I worked was given the task of planting runner-bean seeds. With no experience growing vegetables, Jim quickly became bored waiting for the seeds to sprout.

After weeks of seeing nothing happen, Jim finally noticed signs of life coming up. Before long, he had to put poles in the ground for the beans to climb. One day Jim ran excitedly into the kitchen with some freshly picked beans for dinner. "Wow! All this from tiny seeds!" he exclaimed. "I've sure learned a lot!"

As I talked with Jim, it became clear that he learned more than how plants grow. He gained a new insight: If we willingly listen to God in His Word and do what's right for the right reasons and for the right length of time, our lives will be fruitful.

In Luke 8, Jesus used a parable to teach that the seed of the Word of God will produce a harvest in good soil. But the seed is productive only if the soil is receptive.

People with receptive hearts hear God's Word, obey it, and bear fruit. Others, however, have resistant hearts that fall prey to the devil, do not allow the seed to take root, or are overgrown with the cares and temptations of life.

God's Word is good seed. Is your heart good soil?

Meditate: Lord, I would be soil in which You can plant Your Word with its promise of fruit; I want to be open to You every day, So what You have planted takes root.

Aphorism: To be spiritually fruitful, plant God's Word in your heart.