

## **Bible study for this week** 7/27/09~8/02/09

\***July 27 (Monday), 2009** { [Genesis 12:1~9](#) } Key: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. (Hebrews 11:8) "Called To Bless Others" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 43~45; Acts 27:27~44](#)

One of life's most distressing experiences is being separated from the things and the people we love. It is often difficult to leave a house that holds many pleasant memories, and it is always hard to say goodbye to loved ones when we must leave them.

So it wasn't easy for Abraham to obey God's demand that he separate himself from his country and his friends and relatives. Yet, without obedience to God's command, there would have been no blessing for him or his descendants.

God called Abraham to this life of special consecration because He had chosen him to be the channel through which He would work His plan of redemption. The human race had rebelled and become idolatrous, and Abraham needed to worship the one true God. It is still the duty of all believers to sever connections with anything that hinders our spiritual progress and effectiveness. We must forsake all sin, all self-will, and every worldly pleasure that draws our heart away from God.

If we do this, when we are tested and tried the spiritual fiber of our lives will stand the test. We'll be strengthened in the process, so that we in turn might be a blessing to those around us.

***Meditate:*** All for Jesus, all for Jesus! All my being's ransomed powers: All my thoughts and words and doings, All my days and all my hours.

***Aphorism:*** Attachment to Christ is the secret of detachment from the world.

\***July 28 (Tuesday), 2009** { [1 John 1:5~10](#) } Key: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. (1 John 1:9) "The Eraser Of Confession" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 46~48; Acts 28](#)

From the time that Joseph Dixon (1827~1869) began producing the pencil during the US Civil War, the only substantial change in its design has been the addition of an eraser. Consider for a moment this unique little writing stick. At one end is a hard black point and at the other a small rubber tip. This simple instrument can be used to scribble, sketch, compute complicated formulas, or compose lofty poetry. But it can also quickly correct an error, change a figure, or start all over.

Each day the Christian inscribes words and deeds on the record of his personal history. But as he reflects upon what he's said and done, he becomes aware that some of what's been written is not of the quality that will please the Savior. He remembers attitudes and actions that should never be part of a believer's life. Yet these sins are forgiven and fellowship with God restored through honest confession and repentance.

In John's first epistle, he told us how to walk uprightly and enjoy fellowship with Christ and with one another. But John was a realist, knowing that some of the pages of our composition would be marked by daily flaws and failures. That's why 1 John 1:9 is such a blessed promise. It tells us we can use the eraser of confession and start over.

***Meditate:*** We're thankful, Lord, that when we fall We can begin anew If humbly we confess our sin, Then turn and follow You.

***Aphorism:*** Confession is the soil in which forgiveness flourishes.

\***July 29 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Psalm 33:4~15](#) } Key: The word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth. (Psalm 33:4) "Know Your Product" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 49~50; Romans 1](#)

One mark of a good salesperson is a thorough knowledge of his product. He knows the materials from which it is made. He understands its capabilities. He studies the advantages it will bring to the consumer. And he can answer his customers' questions. The vendor who doesn't know his product will not get the sales.

John R. Rushmore, in his book *The Big Sell*, surveyed the men and women who do the buying for large industrial companies in the US. They expressed the opinion that more than 80 percent of the salespeople who called on them did not have a thorough knowledge of the items they were trying to sell.

As I read that, it made me think about those of us who are Christians. We are called to be witnesses for Jesus, but how well do we know our "product"? We represent Christ in everything we do and say. Therefore, when we speak out for Him, we must do so boldly and clearly. This means we must be familiar with what Scripture says about sin, salvation, and man's need for faith. If we do not represent the gospel accurately, our witness for the Savior will be ineffective.

Study God's Word. Learn its doctrines and put them into practice. That will make you a better witness.

**Meditate:** Let us go forth, as called of God, Redeemed by Jesus' blood, His love to show, His life to live, His message speak, His mercy give.

**Aphorism:** To be a fisher of men in the world, be a hunter for truth in the Word.

\***July 30 (Thursday), 2009** { [Deuteronomy 10:17~22](#) } Key: Love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:19) "I.O.N.U" Bible In One

Year: [Psalms 51~53](#); [Romans 2](#)

Sometimes the Christian life boils down to the uncommon expression of common virtues. For example, you would expect that people indwelt by the Spirit of love would be friendly. What a difference practicing that virtue would make in society!

Tim Sanders, in his book *Likeability Factor*, says that a person who provides others with "a sense of joy, happiness, relaxation, or rejuvenation" is more likely to be hired or promoted. He maintains that some companies have actually abolished unfriendliness. They call their system I.O.N.U.: "I observe no unfriendliness."

That principle should be practiced by the citizens of Christ's kingdom. When people are asked what they look for in a church, their number-one response is friendliness. Unfortunately, the reality is that many churchgoers are as distant as a star and as cold as space.

The Lord told ancient Israel that He "loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18). He commanded them to emulate His behavior (v.19).

Friendliness is not just a wise business practice, it should be a characteristic of all who follow Christ. When you attend your church today, act in such a way that a newcomer could say, "I observe no unfriendliness."

**Meditate:** Thinking It Over What are the key elements that help a church to be meaningful?

**Aphorism:** In a world where many people couldn't care less, Christians should be people who couldn't care more.

\***July 31 (Friday), 2009** { [Revelation 21:1~8](#) } Key: God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. (Revelation 21:4) "Tears In Heaven" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 54~56](#); [Romans 3](#)

In 1991, famed British guitarist Eric Clapton was stricken with grief when his 4-year-old son Conor died as a result of a fall from an apartment window. Looking for an outlet for his grief, Clapton penned perhaps his most poignant ballad: “Tears In Heaven.” It seems that every note weighs heavy with the sense of pain and loss that can be understood only by a parent who has lost a child.

Surprisingly, however, Clapton said in a television interview years later, “In a sense, it wasn’t even a sad song. It was a song of belief. When it [says that] there will be no more tears in heaven, I think it’s a song of optimism—of reunion.”

The thought of a heavenly reunion is powerful indeed. For everyone who has trusted Jesus Christ for salvation, there is the hope that we will be reunited forever in a place where “God will wipe away every tear from [our] eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying” (Revelation 21:4). And, most of all, it is a place where we will “see His face” and forever be with Christ Himself (22:4).

In our times of loss and grief, of tears and sorrow, isn’t it comforting to know that Christ has purchased for us a heavenly home where there will be no more tears!

**Meditate:** What wonders await us in yonder fair land? The face of our Savior, the touch of His hand, No tears and no crying, no sighs or despair, For Jesus is waiting to welcome us there.

**Aphorism:** When God wipes our tears, sorrow will give way to eternal song.

\***August 01(Saturday),2009**{ [Luke 12:41-48](#) }Key: To whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. (Luke 12:48)“**Much Received**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 57-59; Romans 4](#)

Jeff, a 20-year-old in our community, has been given more than he deserves. He had deliberately dropped a brick from a highway overpass that went through the windshield of a car driven by Vickie Prantle. It split open her face, put out her right eye, destroyed her teeth, and necessitated a long series of painful surgeries.

Jeff could have expected Vickie to have a vengeful attitude. But even as she awaited the paramedics, Vickie prayed for the grace to forgive the perpetrator.

Later, she asked the judge to give Jeff a second chance, and he was sentenced to 90 days in a boot camp. “She gave me a gift,” he said, “and I’m going to take it to the fullest extent. I’m very thankful she was a Christian. If she wasn’t, I would still be locked up.”

If that troubled young man puts his faith in Jesus Christ, he will fully reward Vickie for her gift. But if not, his guilt will increase on the final judgment day. Jesus said, “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (Luke 12:48). Jeff has been given much. But so have you and I. We who know Christ have received something much greater—the salvation and forgiveness that Jesus gives.

What will you do with His gift of grace?

**Meditate:** Thou hast bought us, and no longer Can we claim to be our own; Giving freely, naught withholding, We shall serve Thee, Lord, alone.

**Aphorism.** Grace is an unearned blessing given by God to an unworthy recipient.

\***August 02(Sunday),2009**{ [Daniel 1:11-21](#) }Key: A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. (Proverbs 17:17)“**Three Friends**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 60-62; Romans 5](#)

The Old Testament characters Job and Daniel had much in common. Both went through serious trials and challenges. Both had great success because of the blessing of God's presence in their lives. Both are viewed as giants of the faith, one for his patience in suffering and the other for his purity in an impure culture.\

Job and Daniel had something else in common—each had three significant friends. Here, however, the similarities end. Job's friends became a thorn in his flesh, offering him condemnation when he needed compassion and companionship. As Job struggled with loss and grief, Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar seemed bent on intensifying his pain rather than helping him in his adversity.

Daniel's three friends were very different. Taken captive together, Daniel and his companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, supported and strengthened one another in difficult times. They stood together in honoring God (Daniel 1) and in prayer (2:17-18), and in refusing to bow before the king's image (3:16-18). That's the kind of friend we need.

So what kind of friend am I? Proverbs 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times." Who needs you to be a friend today?

***Meditate:*** Lord, help me be the kind of friend that makes my friend secure, so he can find new strength and hope, His trials to endure.

***Aphorism:*** A true friend is like support to a leaning wall.