

Bible study for this week 8/03/09~8/09/09

***August 03(Monday),2009**{[John 6:60-69](#)}Key: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)“**What Price For A Book?**”Bible In One

Year: [Psalms 63-65](#); [Romans 6](#)

A missionary who worked with Underground Evangelism told a story about a believer in Russia before the collapse of communism. Learning that a friend had acquired a Bible, he asked to borrow it. His friend, however, read the precious Book every evening until 10 p.m. So each night for 8 months, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., that dedicated believer laboriously copied his friend’s Bible. Eventually, when some fellow Christians visited him with Bibles, he exchanged his handwritten labor of love for several copies.

Imagine not having access to a copy of the Bible. What price would you pay to get one? Let’s take this question to a deeper level.

When Jesus’ teachings began to “offend” those who were following Him, many chose to leave (John 6:60-66). So He asked His disciples, “Do you also want to go away?” (v.67). Peter replied, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (v.68). Peter knew that Jesus was the living Word—God revealed in the flesh. He was willing to forsake everything in this life to pursue the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Do we have Peter’s commitment? Do we have the devotion of that Russian believer? What price would we pay for the Book? For our Lord?

Meditate: Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, A light to my path alway, To guide and to save me from sin, And show me the heavenly way.

Aphorism: One measure of our love for God is our love for the written Word and our love for the Living Word.

***August 04(Tuesday),2009**{[Matthew 18:23-33](#)}Key: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:15)“**I Did That To**”Bible In One

Year: [Psalms 66-67](#); [Romans 7](#)

Our friend Barbara Leavitt loved flowers. Her home was a garden of rare beauty and sweet fragrance, and so was her life. Her presence was like a delightful bouquet.

Barbara went to be with the Lord in 2005, but something happened a few days before she died that I will never forget. My wife and I were sitting at her bedside with other friends telling stories about our childhood when I mentioned that I had once stolen some flowers. There was a park between the elementary school I attended and our home. One day, while walking through the park, I saw a row of irises in bloom and cut several to take to my mother. Some older boys saw me and threatened to call the police. I lived in terror for weeks thinking they would come and take me away.

Barbara placed her hand over mine and murmured softly, “I did that too.” I thought, *That should be my response when I see the sins of others or hear about them—“I did that too.”* Perhaps I’ve not committed their particular sin, but all sin is blameworthy and requires God’s forgiveness.

Awareness of our own depravity is what John Newton called “the root of perpetual tenderness.” I don’t want to be like the ungrateful servant in Matthew 18. I want to be gracious and show mercy, for “I did that too.”

Meditate: Teach me to feel another’s woe, To hide the fault I see; The mercy I to others show, That mercy show to me.

Aphorism: We can show mercy to others because God has shown mercy to us.

***August 05 (Wednesday), 2009** {[Jeremiah 12](#)} Key: If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? (Jeremiah 12:5) “**Run With Horses**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 68-69](#); [Romans 8:1-21](#)

In the Olympic Games, the greatest runners of the world compete for gold medals and laurel wreaths. Long before the final race, competitions are held in countries throughout the world to weed out those who are not fast enough to compete. At the Games, the fastest of the fast qualify for the final competition.

The prophet Jeremiah was also involved in a fierce competition—but it was with idolaters and wicked priests. He was responding to the Lord’s call to condemn Judah and to predict her downfall. He became so discouraged that he asked the Lord, “Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are [they] happy?” (12:1).

That’s when God said to Jeremiah, in essence, “The competition has just begun. So far you’ve been dealing with minor issues (running with footmen). How will you handle it when the really tough stuff comes (contending with horses)?”

Perhaps you’ve run into some difficulties recently: your boss, an illness, conflicts in your church. You’ve pleaded with the Lord for relief. But He may have said in response, “Toughen up. Dig in. It may get worse.” When He asks you to “run with horses,” He will be with you to strengthen and sustain you. That’s what God does.

Meditate: He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labors increase; To added affliction He addeth His mercy, To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

Aphorism: I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

***August 06 (Thursday), 2009** {[Colossians 1:24-29](#)} Key: You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. (1 Corinthians 6:20) “**Spared From Death**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 70-71](#); [Romans 8:22-39](#)

On August 6, 1945, Kanji Araki, then a toddler, was playing on the floor. Although an air-raid siren had sounded a warning, few paid it any heed since Hiroshima had previously escaped bombing. Then a blinding flash lit up the sky. Superheated air rushed at tremendous speed, knocking down buildings and setting the center of the city ablaze. In the days that followed the nuclear detonation, Kanji’s grandmother, brother, and sister died from radiation sickness.

As Kanji grew up, he experienced emotional conflict about those who suffered and died because of the bomb. His parents were Christians, but Kanji adopted a secular view of life. Yet he felt a growing emptiness inside. He began to study the Bible to discover for himself who Jesus is. At a spiritual turning point, Kanji put his trust in Christ, and his empty heart was filled with God’s wonderful assurance. When the Lord led him into the

ministry, he cited 1 Corinthians 6:20 and said, “I was spared from death so that my life might have a higher purpose in serving God.”

The apostle Paul had also been spared to serve God. “I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you,” he said (Colossians 1:25). What has God entrusted to you?

Meditate: Lord, I thank You for salvation, For Your mercy, full and free; Take my all in consecration, Glorify Yourself in me.

Aphorism: Knowing God gives meaning to life, and obeying God gives purpose to life. ***August 07 (Friday), 2009** {[Psalm 62](#)} Key: Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62:8) “**Hope For The Blues**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 72-73](#); [Romans 9:1-15](#)

You’ve felt it yourself, or at least listened to other people talk about it—the blues, times of dark discouragement. Lynette Joy, in an article for christianwomentoday.com, tells of several steps we can take during those dark times to turn toward Jesus, the Light of the World:

- *Light up your heart through prayer.* Pour out your heart to God when you’re feeling overwhelmed (Psalm 62:8). Take your anxieties to Him in prayer (Philippians 4:6-7). And if you journal or write down your prayers, you can look back later to see how the Lord has answered you.

- *Light up your mind with truth.* Read the Word of God every day, at least for a few minutes. Let His truth challenge, permeate, and transform your incorrect thinking that life is hopeless (Psalm 46:1; Romans 12:2).

- *Light up your life by doing God’s will.* His will for you is to worship and serve Him. Stay involved in your church where you can worship and fellowship with others and serve Him (Hebrews 10:25). This will help you grow in your trust of God.

When we feel darkness begin to close in on us, we need to turn to Jesus, the Light. He will be a refuge (Psalm 62:7-8) and will give us the strength to keep going.

Meditate: Lord, give us strength to trust You when Life’s burdens seem too much to bear; Dispel the darkness with new hope. And help us rise above despair.

Aphorism: You won’t stumble in the dark if you walk in the light of God’s Word.

***August 08 (Saturday), 2009** {[Revelation 3:1-6](#)} Key: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. (Revelation 3:1) “**Wake Up And Live**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 74-76](#); [Romans 9:16-33](#)

A friend remembers :It happened more than 30 years ago but it still hurts. During a period of spiritual rebellion, I ran into a young man I had introduced to Christ. He was stunned to discover that I had walked away from the Lord and was no longer the person he had known. It is one of my most regretted experiences, and I still pray for an opportunity to make it right with him.

During those wandering years, I would have fit in comfortably as a member of the First Church of Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6). My dilemma, like theirs, was that people thought I was the person I used to be.

The risen Lord confronted the church in Sardis: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which

remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God” (Revelation 3:1-2).

Their reputation for being alive didn’t match reality. They were spiritually dead. But there was still hope. The Lord told them to wake up and fan the spark of spiritual life still in them. “Hold fast and repent,” He warned (v.3).

Pretending to be what we aren’t is a heavy burden to bear. Our Lord calls us to lay it down, repent, come back to Him, and live.

Meditate: O Lord, return to me Your power. That once by grace I knew; Forgive the sin that grieved Your heart, And help me to be true.

Aphorism: No matter how far you’ve run from God, He’s only a prayer away.

***August 09(Sunday),2009**{ [Matthew 6:9-15](#)}Key: If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:14)“**Storm Before The Calm**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 77-78; Romans 10](#)

The small church was struggling, and everyone knew why. Two elderly church members had a conflict, and the people had divided their loyalties between them, which made any kind of progress impossible. They blatantly disregarded Jesus’ instructions on forgiving others (Matthew 6:14).

A new pastor came to the church and spent several weeks teaching about forgiveness and trust. For a while, the people stuck to their divided loyalties and continued to slog along in their stagnant pool of distrust.

After much prayer, the pastor felt directed by the Lord to take action. So during a morning service, he called on the two men to stand and then asked them to forgive each other. He knew that if the church were ever to have peace again, a storm of confrontation had to occur. The men faced off, paused, and then embraced. Tears ran down their faces as each begged the other for forgiveness. Forty-five minutes later, the crying and hugging and forgiving throughout the congregation finally stopped. The church was revitalized to serve together as a loving community for the glory of God.

Forgiveness is a powerful thing, bringing a comforting calmness. With it, we can enjoy harmony with God’s people; without it, the storm continues.

Meditate: Read Matthew 18:15-20 for guidelines in dealing with conflict.

Aphorism: Forgiveness is Christianity in action.