

Bible study for this week 8/31/09~9/06/09

***August 31(Monday),2009**{[John 11:17-27](#)}Key: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.”(John 11:25)“**The Last Word**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 132-134; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34](#)

When Walter Bouman, a retired seminary professor, learned that the cancer in his body had spread and that he had perhaps 9 months to live, he pondered many things. One was comedian Johnny Carson’s quip: “It is true that for several days after you die, your hair and fingernails keep on growing, but the phone calls taper off.” He found that humor to be a wonderful tonic, but it was something far deeper that sustained his soul.

In Bouman’s newspaper column, he wrote of his greatest source of encouragement: “The Christian good news is that Jesus of Nazareth has been raised from death, that death no longer has dominion over Him. I have bet my living, and now I am called to bet my dying, that Jesus will have the last word.”

In John 11, we read what Jesus said to Martha, a close friend who was grieving the death of her brother. He said: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (vv.25-26).

For each “today” we are given, and for the inevitable “tomorrow” that will come, we don’t have to be afraid. Jesus Christ is with all who trust Him, and He will have the last word.

Meditate:To Him I trust my soul, my dust,When flesh and spirit sever;The Christ we sing has plucked the sting.Away from death forever.

Aphorism:Because Jesus has risen from the dead, He has the last word in life and in death.

***September 01(Tuesday),2009**{[Philippians 4:4-13](#)}Key: The peace of God . . . will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)“**Peaceful Anxiety**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 135-136; 1 Corinthians 12](#)

A person who says shares :I was scheduled to teach at a Bible conference outside the US and was waiting for my visa to be approved. It had been rejected once, and time was slipping away. Without the visa, I would lose an opportunity for ministry, and my colleagues in that country would have to find another speaker at the last minute.

During those stressful days, a co-worker asked how I felt about it all. I told him I was experiencing “peaceful anxiety.” When he looked at me rather quizzically, I explained: “I have had anxiety because I need the visa and there is nothing I can do about it. But I have great peace because I know that, after all, there is nothing I can do about it!”

It’s comforting to know that such things are in our Father’s hands. My inability to do anything about the problem was more than matched by my confidence in God, for whom all things are possible. As I prayed about the situation, my anxiety was replaced by His peace (Phil. 4:6-7).

The problems of life can be taxing on us—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Yet, as we learn to trust in the Father’s care, we can have the peace that not only surpasses all

understanding but also overcomes our anxiety. We can be at rest, for we are in God's hands.

Meditate: Oh, the peace I find in Jesus, Peace no power on earth can shake, Peace that makes the Lord so precious, Peace that none from me can take.

Aphorism: When we keep our minds on God, God will keep our minds at peace.

***September 02 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Luke 10:38-42](#) } Key: Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. (Proverbs 4:7) "**First Things First**" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 137-139; 1 Corinthians 13](#)

During World War II, I served as an orthopedic technician in a hospital in England. One day we were cleaning up after putting casts on fractured limbs when I noticed some co-workers goofing off instead of helping. I didn't hesitate to show my displeasure.

Such incidents are why I usually find myself saying a few words in defense of Martha whenever I preach on Luke 10:38-42. You'll recall that she was "distracted with much serving" (v.40), while her sister Mary did nothing but listen to Jesus.

It's easy for me to see Martha's point of view. In Proverbs, more than a dozen verses rebuke the slothful. And when some first-century Christians quit working and started to freeload off others, Paul laid down the rule: "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thess. 3:10).

Our approach to work must be balanced. Proverbs 4:7 says, "Wisdom is the principal thing." Martha could have said, "Mary, dinner can wait. I'll join you in listening to Jesus before getting started in the kitchen."

Work is vital. But we should not be so obsessed with it that it crowds out worship and spiritual instruction.

Work hard, but keep first things first.

Meditate: For Further Study. For more on this topic, read the online booklet [Mary & Martha: Balancing Life's Priorities](#)

Aphorism: Don't be so busy doing good that you neglect to do what's right.

***September 03 (Thursday), 2009** { [Colossians 3:22-25](#) } Key: Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. (Colossians 3:23) "**Between Sundays**" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 140-142; 1 Corinthians 14:1-20](#)

Most Christians are not engaged in professional ministry. They don't preach or sing or work for an evangelistic agency. Their time between Sundays is spent doing jobs that don't *seem* to have value for the spread of the gospel. Therefore, some believers may view themselves as second-class disciples.

That may have been the way some members of the church in Colosse regarded themselves. Paul addressed an erroneous viewpoint of secular work when he wrote, "Obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, . . . in sincerity of heart, fearing God" (Col. 3:22).

You see, if God's purposes in this world are to be fulfilled, we need a structured society with all its indispensable activities. The people we work for are servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Whether they know it or not, our employers are carrying out God's good purposes. As long as the assigned task is not sinful or unethical, when we serve those who rule over us we are serving the Lord.

So let's view our daily work—whatever it is—as an extension of God's work in the world. As we do so, we'll find there is no better place to spread the good news of salvation than right where God has placed us.

Meditate: Teach me, my God and King, In all things Thee to see, And what I do in anything

Aphorism: To do it as for Thee! For the Christian, work is ministry.

*September 04(Friday),2009{ [Ephesians 6:1-9](#)} Key: Be obedient to those who are your masters. (Ephesians 6:5)“**A People Company**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 143-145; 1 Corinthians 14:21-40](#)

My brother worked 42 years for the Herman Miller Furniture Company. At his retirement dinner he said, “This is my company. Where else could a production worker like me participate in the management of the company?” What had instilled this kind of loyalty? In part, it was the leadership of D. J. De Pree, longtime president of the company.

One day a worker in the plant died suddenly. When Mr. De Pree visited his widow, she told him of her husband's poetry and of his witnessing to the night watchman. This impressed De Pree with the value of each of the workers in his plant. From then on, his attitude toward the business changed. “I realized,” he said, “that the manufacturer's first priority was to make his product the best he could for the one who would use it; the second was the man in the factory who made it; and the third was the ownership.”

This attitude is rooted in Scripture. Christians in labor and in management all work for one Master. Employees must therefore serve with diligence. Management must do the same—with two additions. They must be fair and just (Col. 4:1) and must not threaten (Eph. 6:9).

Integrity, concern for others, and mutual respect make any company a people company.

Meditate: Lord, teach me how to love and work, So every deed I do. May be to someone in its turn. A service fine and true.

Aphorism: When integrity and people rate higher than pay and profits, everyone profits!

*September 05(Saturday),2009{ [Isaiah 55:1-7](#)} Key: Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? (Isaiah 55:2)“**Something For Nothing**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 146-147; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28](#)

During a long layover at an airport, I noticed that one business in the main terminal attracted more people than any other. For hours, a steady stream of customers approached with cash in hand, stood in line, made a purchase, and left quickly. All seemed to know exactly what they wanted.

The thriving business was a lottery sales office. Even though the chance of winning the big powerball jackpot was 1 in 146 million, people seemed compelled to spend something and, in almost every case, get nothing. It seemed to be a vivid picture of our enduring quest for satisfaction and security in material things.

When God questioned His people through the prophet Isaiah, He asked why they spent their money for things that neither nourished nor satisfied them. The Lord invited those who had no resources to “come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. . . . And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me” (Isa. 55:1-3).

God offers to give us what we can't buy—mercy, pardon, and a changed life infused with His presence. He invites us to “Seek the Lord while He may be found” (v.6).

By God's grace, we can freely receive His something—for nothing.

Meditate:Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, Freely bestowed on all who believe! You that are longing to see His face, Will you this moment His grace receive?

Aphorism:God's grace accepted is God's peace experienced.

***September 06(Sunday),2009**{[Revelation 22:1-5](#)}Key: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. (Revelation 22:5)“**There's Heaven**”Bible In One Year: [Psalms 148-150; 1 Corinthians 15:29-58](#)

When 3-year-old Bree's grandpa suffered heart failure, he was taken to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. A few weeks after the funeral when Bree and her family drove past the hospital, she pointed to it and remarked matter-of-factly, “There's heaven.” She knew her grandpa was in heaven. Since he went to the hospital on the day he died, she thought it must be heaven.

Bree's mother wrote, “We adults [have] abstract concepts of a paradise beyond even the invisible stars.” Bree's childish view of heaven caused her mom to think of heaven as a real place—which helped to comfort her.

In Revelation, John gives us a glimpse of what heaven will be like. After being caught up to heaven, he saw “a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal” and “the tree of life” (22:1-2). And in that place there was no need for “lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light” (v.5).

Words are inadequate to describe heaven, but we know it's a real place for those who have trusted Jesus as their Savior. Jesus assures us, “In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2). One day we'll be there and won't need to imagine that place anymore.

Meditate:I have a home in heaven above,From sin and sorrow free,A mansion which eternal love.Designed and formed for me.

Aphorism:Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

***September 07(Monday),2009**{[Acts 17:22-31](#)}Key: That I might win those who are without law. (1 Corinthians 9:21)“**Common Ground**”Bible In One Year: [Proverbs 1-2; 1 Corinthians 16](#)

Roman emperors are not generally remembered for their wisdom, but there are a few exceptions. One great thinker was Marcus Aurelius, emperor of Rome from AD 161 to 180. Gifted with a brilliant mind, he was one of the great intellectual rulers in Western civilization.

Although he never became a convert to the new faith that would be called Christianity, he displayed remarkable insight. His wisdom reflects the law of God written in the heart of someone who did not have God's Word (Rom. 2:14-15). For example:

- The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.
- You have power over your mind—not outside events.
- Your life is what your thoughts make it.

These words sound similar to Proverbs 23:7, “As [a person] thinks in his heart, so is he.” We can learn helpful principles from non-Christians and use their beliefs as common

ground for sharing the gospel. When Paul stood on Mars Hill addressing some of the leading intellectuals of his day, he did not belittle their beliefs but established common ground with them and then gave the gospel (Acts 17:26-28).

Let's look for common ground with our neighbors, so that we may lead them to Christ.

Meditate: What common ground do you share with your friends? Books read Hobbies Travel Children Sports Upbringing Work A grief experience Military service.

Aphorism: A faith worth having is a faith worth sharing.

***September 08 (Tuesday), 2009** { [Hosea 11:1-4](#) } Key: I taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by their arms. (Hosea 11:3) "**Learning To Walk**" Bible In One Year: [Proverbs 3-5](#); [2 Corinthians 1](#)

I remember those days long ago when our children were learning to walk. First they showed their readiness by pulling themselves up and taking a tentative step or two. My wife and I would reach out our hands and encourage them to walk toward us. We held them up by their hands or by the suspenders on their overalls. We praised every effort and encouraged every attempt. We never grew discouraged, nor did we give up until they learned to walk.

So it is with our heavenly Father: He "taught [Israel] to walk" (Hos. 11:3). He took His children "by their arms" and "drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love" (vv.3-4).

Our heavenly Father stands before us with outstretched arms, encouraging us toward holiness, eager to catch us when we stumble. He picks us up when we fall. He is never discouraged with our progress, nor will He ever give up. The more difficult we find the process, the more care and kindness He expends.

George MacDonald put it this way: "God will help us when we cannot walk, and He will help us when we find it hard to walk, but He cannot help us if we will not walk."

Even though you fall, you must try again. Your Father holds you by the hand.

Meditate: Savior, let me walk beside Thee, Let me feel my hand in Thine; Let me know the joy of walking. In Thy strength and not in mine.

Aphorism: We can't run the Christian race until we learn to walk.

***September 09 (Wednesday), 2009** { [James 4:13-17](#) } Key: To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. (James 4:17) "**Failing To Do Right**" Bible In One Year: [Proverbs 6-7](#); [2 Corinthians 2](#)

In his book *Eight Men Out*, Eliot Asinof records the events surrounding the notorious "Black Sox" scandal of 1919. Eight members of the Chicago White Sox baseball club were accused of taking bribes from gamblers in exchange for intentionally losing the World Series. Although they were never convicted in a court of law, all eight were banned from baseball for life.

But one of those players, Buck Weaver, claimed that he had played to win despite knowing about the conspiracy. Though Weaver's performance on the field supported his contention, baseball commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis ruled that any player who had knowledge of the scandal, yet chose not to stop it, would still be banned. Weaver was not punished for doing wrong, but for failing to do right.

In his letter to the first-century church, James wrote, "To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (4:17). In a world filled with evil and darkness, followers of

Christ have the opportunity to shine their light. That often means we must resist the urge to do nothing.

When faced with the choice between doing good and failing to do anything at all, we must always choose to do what's right.

Meditate: Heavenly Father, help me to honor You throughout my life by being a light in this dark world. May it never be said of me that I failed to do what I knew to be good, just, and right. Amen.

Aphorism: The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.