

Bible study for this week 10/26/09~11/01/09

***October 26 (Monday), 2009** { [2 Corinthians 9:6~15](#) } Key: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (2 Corinthians 9:6) "Losing To Gain" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 9~11; 1 Timothy 6](#)

A person who says shares :On my father's farm were certain fields he sowed by hand. He would strap on a canvas contraption that looked somewhat like a kangaroo pouch, fill it with seed, and go out to sow. He would cast seed everywhere.

When a farmer sows seed in his field, it looks like he's throwing it away. It seems to be lost, but it isn't really gone. In due time he gets it back—with much more besides. When we give ourselves to Christ, it may seem to people as if we're throwing our life away. But He said that it is only as we lose our lives in Him that we find true life (Matt. 10:39).

Jesus teaches us to measure our lives by losses rather than gains, by sacrifices rather than self-preservation, by time spent for others rather than time lavished upon ourselves, by love poured out rather than love poured in.

It's a rule of life: God blesses those who give of their lives and resources (2 Cor. 9:6). Give out the truth you know, and He'll give you more to give away. Give your time, and you'll have more time to give. Set no limit on your love, and you'll have more love for others than before.

Israel's wise man said, "There is one who scatters, yet increases more" (Prov. 11:24). It's one of the oldest paradoxes in the world, but it works.

Meditate: We lose what on ourselves we spend; We have as treasure without end Whatever, Lord, to You we lend, Who givest all.

Aphorism: When you grasp, you lose; when you give to God, you gain.

***October 27 (Tuesday), 2009** { [2 Chronicles 20:5~17](#) } Key: We have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You. (2 Chronicles 20:12) "What Now?" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 12~14; 2 Timothy 1](#)

A person who says shares :During the years that I taught junior high students in an overcrowded school, I used to say (only slightly in jest) that my morning prayer was in 2 Chronicles 20:12—"O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

When Judah's King Jehoshaphat spoke those words, it was a matter of life and death. As a coalition of armies marched against Jerusalem, the people of Judah gathered to seek God's guidance and help (v.13).

During threatening times of disruption and change, we need to ask, "Lord, what do You want to do with this moment?" And like King Jehoshaphat, we should begin our prayer with praise to our sovereign and powerful Father in heaven (vv.5~9).

God told the king and his people: "Do not be afraid nor dismayed . . . , for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. . . . for the LORD is with you" (vv.15~17).

In stressful, confusing situations, we might ask a worried "What now?" But if we look to the Lord and trust in His care, our fear will be replaced with peace.

Meditate: O Lord, whenever we're afraid, We'll put our trust in You To lead, protect, and guide our way, And help us make it through.

Aphorism: Faith ends where worry begins, and worry ends where faith begins.

***October 28 (Wednesday), 2009** { [Romans 8:18~28](#) } Key: We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28) "Good Out Of Evil" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 15~17; 2 Timothy 2](#)

The events of life can challenge our trust in the Scriptures. Romans 8:28 teaches that God can bring good out of "all things." But in August 2004 "all things" seemed hard to fathom. Some longtime friends of mine contacted me and others asking prayer for their son and his fiancée who were missing. It was so out of character for Jason and Lindsay that we feared the worst. Several days later, their murdered bodies were found, just 2 weeks before their wedding.

In those troubling days, "all things" seemed incapable of including such a senseless act. Yet the victims' families were amazing in their resolve to trust Jesus Christ, reaffirming their confidence that God would graciously bring good out of great evil. In the following months, incredible stories began to roll in. Through letters, e-mail, and phone calls, we heard of people who had seen the families' example in the media coverage and had come to Christ. Eternal destinies had been changed and lives had been won through the testimonies of Jason and Lindsay and their families.

Nothing could ever justify those murders or replace precious lives cut short. But we are drawn again to hope, for we see God's ability to bring good out of evil.

Meditate: We comprehend Him not, Yet earth and heaven tell God sits as sovereign on the throne And ruleth all things well.

Aphorism: God can turn tragedy into triumph.

***October 29 (Thursday), 2009** { [Revelation 1:10~18](#) } Key: I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. (Psalm 9:1) "From Awe To Adoration" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 18~19; 2 Timothy 3](#)

What's the greatest activity we can spend time doing? Worshiping God! Worship is not repeating hasty, routine petitions or listening to mood-inducing music. Worship is the experience of being "lost in wonder, love, and praise," as Charles Wesley wrote. It's awe that inspires adoration.

My first sight of the Grand Canyon left me speechless. The friend who had driven me there appreciated my reaction and stood silent beside me. I gazed in awe at this magnificent spectacle and thought, *This is a glimpse of God's majesty*. But my awe, by itself, was not worship.

My reaction is different when I come face to face with Jesus in the Scriptures. Awe changes into adoration as I behold Him in all His beauty. What grips my soul? *His unsullied purity*: "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46). *His unrivaled wisdom*: "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46). *His unbounded pity*: "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion" (Matt. 9:36). And *His overwhelming majesty*: "He was transfigured before them" (Matt. 17:2).

As I see Jesus in the Gospels, my awe changes to adoration. I bow in worship and exclaim with Thomas: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Meditate: Behold Him there! The risen Lamb! My perfect, spotless righteousness; The great, unchangeable I AM, The King of glory and of grace.

Aphorism: True worship of Christ changes admiration into adoration.

***October 30 (Friday), 2009** { [Psalm 126](#) } Key: They said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." (Psalm 126:2) "What's In Your Mouth?" Bible In One

Year: [Jeremiah 20~21; 2 Timothy 4](#)

Communications experts tell us that the average person speaks enough to fill 20 single-spaced, typewritten pages every day. This means our mouths crank out enough words to fill 2 books of 300 pages each month, 24 books each year, and 1,200 books in 50 years of speaking. Thanks to phones, voicemail, and face-to-face conversations, words comprise a large part of our lives. So the kinds of words we use are important. The psalmist's mouth was filled with praise when he wrote Psalm 126. The Lord had done great things for him and his people. Even the nations around them noticed. Remembering God's blessings, he said, "Our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing" (v.2).

What words would you have used in verse 3 had you been writing this psalm? So often, our attitude may seem to be: "The Lord has done great things for me, and I— . . . can't recall any of them right now." . . . am wondering what He'll do for me next." . . . need much more."

Or can you finish it by saying, "And I am praising and thanking Him for His goodness"? As you recall God's blessings today, express your words of praise to Him.

Meditate: When my thoughts and the Word Are in one accord, Then the words of my mouth Honor Christ my Lord.

Aphorism: Let no thought linger in your mind that you would be ashamed to let out of your mouth.

***October 31 (Saturday), 2009** { [Luke 15:4~7](#) } Key: There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. (Luke 15:7) "More Joy In Heaven" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 22~23; Titus 1](#)

A person who says shares :I dreaded the idea of attending a memorial service for an old friend. Fred had rejected the need for Jesus in his life, and because of that I was sure he was lost forever.

Yet Fred's many friendships had included followers of Jesus. At the service, as one of those friends spoke of a conversation he had in Fred's last months, my eyes filled with tears.

Fred had asked him, "Do you think I'll go to heaven?" The friend had honestly replied, "No, Fred. I don't think so." As they talked, Fred's wall of resistance began to fall, and he said, "Philip, I believe that what the Bible says is true." After a lifetime of rejecting the free gift of salvation, Fred finally accepted Jesus as his Savior.

With happy tears, I thought about the verse: "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:7). Jesus and the angels were rejoicing with me.

As Fred had requested, we stood and sang, "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so!" To my friend, those familiar words had become a personal reality.

Let's bring more joy to heaven by spreading the good news: Jesus loves us—this we know!

Meditate: The great God who made the heavens, Keeps the stars within their bound, Still rejoices with His angels When a poor lost soul is found!

Aphorism: All heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents.

***November 01 (Sunday) 2009** { [Psalm 34](#) } Key: The eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy. (Psalm 33:18) "He's Always Watching" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 24~26; Titus 2](#)

Marcie (not her real name) had broken up with her boyfriend, and now he was harassing her. He followed her, stared at her, and intimidated her in subtle ways. She avoided him as much as she could.

One place she could not escape his gaze was at football games, because she was a cheerleader. During one game, he stood at field level right in front of the cheerleading squad and stared at her as she did her routines. Her mom and stepdad, sitting in the stands, saw him there and realized that she was getting more and more afraid.

At a break, she ran into the stands, her eyes filled with panic. “Do you see him over there?” she blurted out. “Yes, I do,” her stepdad said. “I’m watching, and I will not take my eyes off you.” Relieved that he saw what was going on and understood how she was feeling, Marcie calmed down and went back to her station.

One of the wonderful joys of being a believer in Jesus is knowing that our Father in heaven is always watching over us. The promise expressed by David in today’s psalm applies to us wherever we go. Whatever confronts us, the “eyes of the Lord” are on us and His ears “are open to [our] cry” (Ps. 34:15). We are never out of God’s sight.

Meditate: How wonderful to know that He Who watches from above Will always keep us sheltered in His ever-present love.

Aphorism: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.