

## **Bible study for this week** 11/02/09~11/08/09

\***November02(Monday)2009**{ [Deuteronomy 6:10~19](#) }Key: Beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

(Deuteronomy 6:12)“When All Looks Bright”Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 27~29; Titus](#)

### **3**

Life looks rosy to many people. Their work is fulfilling. The house or apartment doesn't need repair. Their bank account shows a surplus. Family members are enjoying good health. Friends are loyal.

Good times, however, can be dangerous. The comforts and pleasures of this world can become so important that we give God little or no place in our thoughts. Prosperity can quickly lead to complacency.

God knew this would happen to His people when they entered the Promised Land. So He warned them not to forget the source of their blessings (Deut. 6:12). He instructed them:• Fear the Lord (v.13).• Serve Him (v.13).• Do not go after other gods (v.14).• Do not tempt the Lord (v.16).• Keep the commandments (v.17).• Do what is right and good (v.18).

Historians tell us that religious fervor usually declines during prosperous times. But if we will learn from Israel's experience and heed the Lord's instruction, this need not happen to us.

Let's be careful that we do not forget the Lord—especially when all looks bright!

**Meditate:** Help us, O Lord, to ponder this: We have no good apart from You;For we are prone to take our ease When all is bright and skies are blue.

**Aphorism:**Prosperity may be a greater test of character than poverty.

\***November03(Tuesday)2009**{ [Ephesians 4:25~5:1](#) }Key: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)“Getting Even”Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 30~31; Philemon](#)

When we or someone we love has been hurt, thoughts of revenge may dominate our minds. But we won't ever be able to “get even.” Dr. Lewis Smedes, a professor of theology, wrote extensively about forgiveness in *Forgive and Forget*, saying: “Revenge never evens the score, for alienated people never keep score of wrongs by the same mathematics. Forgiveness is the only way to stop the cycle of unfair pain turning in your memory.”

These insights help us understand why Paul wrote with urgency: “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger . . . be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, . . . forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:31~32). Paul knew that a spirit of forgiveness was essential for the Ephesians' spiritual survival. His appeal was based on God's forgiveness of them.

Smedes said that forgiveness is not forgetting, excusing, or smoothing things over. Instead, forgiving breaks the cycle of revenge and “creates a new possibility of fairness by releasing us from the unfair past. Forgiving is love's toughest work, and love's biggest risk. To forgive is to dance to the beat of God's forgiving heart. It is to ride the crest of love's strongest wave. To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.”

**Meditate:**Jesus came our debt to pay, Saved our soul in grace one day, So in love we all should live, Ready always to forgive.

**Aphorism:**Revenge imprisons us; forgiveness sets us free.

\***November04(Wednesday)2009**{ [Proverbs 11:14; 12:15; 27:9](#) }Key: In the multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11:14)“Multitude Of Counselors”Bible In One

Year: [Jeremiah 32~33; Hebrews 1](#)

In October 1962, the world held its breath as the US and the Soviet Union stood at the brink of nuclear war. Premier Nikita Khrushchev had delivered nuclear missiles to Cuba, and President John F. Kennedy demanded their immediate removal. Tensions were at an all-time high.

Kennedy phoned three former US presidents to get their advice. Herbert Hoover had faced the economic problems of the Great Depression; Harry Truman had ended World War II; and Dwight Eisenhower had served as the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe. Each had valuable insights to share. After Kennedy conferred with all of his White House advisors, a balanced course of action defused the crisis. War was averted.

The Bible encourages us to seek the advice of wise counselors. Proverbs 11:14 states, “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” The word translated “counsel” is a Hebrew nautical term used for steering a ship. The wisdom of godly advisors can help steer us in the right direction.

Are you facing a crisis? A truly wise person is open to the counsel and insight of others. Why not prayerfully seek the advice of some godly believers today?

**Meditate:** When a crisis looms before you, Don’t face it on your own; Seek advice from godly counsel, And take it to God’s throne.

**Aphorism:** If you seek wise counsel you multiply your chances for sound decisions.

\*November05(Thursday)2009{ [1 John 3:16~23](#) }Key: Whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (1 John 3:22)“A Surprise Answer”Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 34~36;](#)

### [Hebrews 2](#)

When Josh McDowell’s mother died, he was not sure of her salvation. He became depressed. Was she a Christian or not? “Lord,” he prayed, “somehow give me the answer so I can get back to normal. I’ve just got to know.” It seemed like an impossible request.

Two days later, Josh drove out to the ocean and walked to the end of a pier to be alone. There sat an elderly woman in a lawnchair, fishing. “Where’s your home originally?” she asked. “Michigan—Union City,” Josh replied. “Nobody’s heard of it. I tell people it’s a suburb of—” “Battle Creek,” interrupted the woman. “I had a cousin from there. Did you know the McDowell family?”

Stunned, Josh responded, “Yes, I’m Josh McDowell.” “I can’t believe it,” said the woman. “I’m a cousin to your mother.” “Do you remember anything at all about my mother’s spiritual life?” asked Josh. “Why sure—your mom and I were just girls—teenagers—when a tent revival came to town. We both went forward to accept Christ.” “Praise God!” shouted Josh, startling the surrounding fishermen.

God delights to give us what we ask when it is in His will. Never underestimate His desire to respond to our prayers. A surprise may be just around the corner.

**Meditate:** That long-sought wish, oh, how I prayed, I thought it not divinely willed, And then the joyous, tear-stained smile Of faith triumphant, hope fulfilled!

**Aphorism:** If you get definite with God, He’ll get definite with you.

\*November06(Friday)2009{ [Deuteronomy 30:15~20](#) }Key: I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. (Deuteronomy 30:15)“The Choice”Bible In One

### Year: [Jeremiah 37~39; Hebrews 3](#)

You’ve heard the infamous name of John Wilkes Booth. He assassinated President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. But have you heard about Edwin Booth, John’s eldest brother? Edwin, a well-known actor, was waiting at a Jersey City train station when he saw someone

slip and fall off the platform. Edwin quickly grabbed the man's collar and pulled him to safety—rescuing him from serious injury or death. Who was the man he saved? Abraham Lincoln's son Robert, a soldier in the Civil War.

How ironic that the man who saved Lincoln's son had a brother who would soon kill the president. One saved a life; one took a life. One chose life; the other chose death. The Lord gave His people a choice between life and death: They could love Him and obey His commands (Deut. 30:16), or they could worship and serve other gods (v.17). He told them, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life" (v.19).

We too have a choice between life and death. We can receive Jesus as our Savior and live with Him forever, or we can reject Jesus and be in darkness forever without Him. The best choice is clear. Receive God's gift of His Son Jesus. Choose life!

**Meditate:** The choice we make determines our Eternal destination; One leads to everlasting life; The other, condemnation.

**Aphorism:** The choice you make today will determine your tomorrow.

\*November07(Saturday)2009{ [1 Thessalonians 4:13~18](#) }Key: O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? (1 Corinthians 15:55)"Three Certainties" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 40~42; Hebrews 4](#)

A person who says shares :As I waited outside the Intensive Care Unit for changes in the condition of a loved one, I was reminded that death affects all of us: old and young, male and female, rich and poor.

In 1 Thessalonians 4, the apostle Paul comforted those who mourned the death of their loved ones. He told them that excessive grief resulted from being uninformed. Weeping for our loss is good, but we need not weep like those who have no hope. Instead, we must rely on three certainties of death.

The first certainty is that the soul does not die. The souls of departed believers are with the Lord (v.14). They have retired from this problematic world, and they "sleep in Jesus."

Second, Jesus will come for every believer. Whether a Christian is alive on earth or asleep in death, Jesus will return for all His children (vv.16~17).

Third, there will be a joyous reunion. "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (v.17).

Knowing these certainties brings comfort to believers when their friends and loved ones depart. Although we are separated from them for a while, we will meet again in the presence of our Lord.

**Meditate:** When facing death's shadow, remember the Light; The shadows bring fear, and the dark shrouds our eyes; But if we will turn to face Jesus the Light, The shadows will fade as He brightens our skies.

**Aphorism:** Sunset in one land is sunrise in another.

\*November08(Sunday)2009{ [2 Timothy 2:1~10](#) }Key: The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:2)"He Did It" Bible In One Year: [Jeremiah 43~45; Hebrews 5](#)

At the memorial service for LeRoy Eims, longtime staff member with The Navigators, I pondered why hundreds of colleagues and friends had come from across the US to pay tribute. Why did so many people love him so deeply?

As a young Christian, LeRoy had been challenged to disciple others one-on-one. He took seriously Paul's charge to Timothy: "The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). LeRoy embraced that clear, simple command of Scripture and practiced it faithfully for more than 50 years.

Scores of people who packed the church that afternoon had lived in LeRoy and Virginia Eims' home. They had been embraced, encouraged, and instructed by him. As his spiritual children, they had multiplied his ministry by investing themselves in others, just as he had in them.

One sentence in a written tribute captured the essence of the man: "His life was characterized by singleness of purpose, great creativity and a wonderful sense of humor."

LeRoy's example spurs us on to a lifetime of faithfully following the Lord. He did it! And by God's grace, so can we.

***Meditate:*** It is in loving—not in being loved—The heart is blessed; It is in giving—not in seeking gifts—We find our quest.

***Aphorism:*** You can teach more with your life than with your lips.