

Bible study for this week 11/16/09~11/22/09

***November 16 (Monday) 2009** { [Deuteronomy 6:4~9](#) } Key: You shall teach them diligently to your children. (Deuteronomy 6:7) “**The Dead Sea Squirrels**” Bible In One Year: [Ezekiel 3~4; Hebrews 11:20~40](#)

Our family was excited to visit the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit that was coming to town all the way from Israel. These ancient copies of the Old Testament provide evidence that our Bible has remained accurate over the centuries. Our nephew Daniel was so elated about this outing that he told his schoolmates, “Our family is going to see ‘the dead sea squirrels!’” We all laughed when we heard his misquote. His little ears had turned a word he had never heard (*scrolls*) into a word he did know (*squirrels*). And in his childlike enthusiasm, he also knew that the family was going to see something wonderful!

Daniel’s excitement underscores an important spiritual aspect of parenting. Values are transmitted to our children not only by what we say but by the emotions we convey. Both content and heartfelt appreciation for God’s Word can be communicated to children in a variety of ways (Deut. 6:4~9), including what they overhear in our conversation with others.

Young children may not initially understand each spiritual idea we discuss, but they can catch the importance we place on it. Children pick up on spiritual values and grow in understanding as we express reverence and excitement about the Word of God.

Meditate: Lord, give us wisdom to provide The proper atmosphere To lead our children in Your ways By what they see and hear.

Aphorism: Train up a child in the way he should go—but be sure you go that way yourself.

***November 17 (Tuesday) 2009** { [Psalm 119:97~104](#) } Key: As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby. (1 Peter 2:2) “**Word Hunger**” Bible In One Year: [Ezekiel 5~7; Hebrews 12](#)

A person who says shares :I had just completed a night of Bible conference ministry in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and was chatting with some of the people who had attended. At the end of the line was a young man in his twenties. He shared with me that he had been a Christ-follower for only about 4 months, and he was eager to learn more of the teachings of the Bible. I referred him to the RBC Web site with the Discovery Series topics as one possible resource for his personal study.

The next night the young man returned to the conference and shared that he had stayed up until 3:30 reading and processing the biblical truths he discovered in that online resource. With a big smile on his face, he declared that he just couldn’t get enough of God’s Word (1 Peter 2:2).

What spiritual hunger! That excited young man is a reminder to us of the wonder of the Bible and its heart-enriching truths. It’s all too easy for us to ignore God’s Book in a world filled with voices screaming for our attention. But only in the Bible can we find God’s wisdom for our struggles, God’s answers for our questions, and God’s truths for our understanding. These truths are worth hungering for.

Meditate: Can mainly be satisfied that I admire the truth, it is he that feeds the real grain of my life; Because main favor I thirsty the universe have, endless source he support me take.

Aphorism: Study the Bible to be wise; believe it to be safe; practice it to be holy.

***November 18 (Wednesday) 2009** { [Philippians 3:13~21](#) } Key: Forgetting those things which are behind . . . I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in

Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13~14)“Cleaning Out The Files”Bible In One Year:[Ezekiel 8~10; Hebrews 13](#)

A certain businessman was notorious for saving almost everything that came across his desk—especially correspondence. Consequently, the files in his office were bulging. One day his secretary asked if she might dispose of all the old, useless material. The man was reluctant, but finally said, “Well, all right, but be sure you make a copy of everything before you throw it away.”

That’s the way some Christians handle their sins. They know that Jesus paid the penalty, but somehow they can’t let go of the guilt. It’s as if Christ’s suffering were not enough, and they must contribute some of their own anguish by continually lamenting their failures. They want to keep copies of everything they’ve done. How foolish!

The apostle Paul wanted nothing of this. He accepted as an accomplished fact the removal of all his guilt before God because Christ’s death had marked PAID IN FULL over his account. The memory of earlier days remained vivid, but it didn’t weigh him down.

Everything that happens to us is retained in that remarkable filing system called “memory.” A wise forgetfulness based on Christ’s atoning sacrifice can keep all guilt feelings from cluttering up our life.

Meditate: The Lord forgives our sins because of Calvary, And He Himself remembers them no more; So let us not be burdened with their memory, But look ahead to all He has in store.

Aphorism: Guilt is a burden God never intended His children to bear.

*November19(Thursday)2009{[James 1:13~21](#)}Key:Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights. (James 1:17)“Gifts Without Guilt”Bible In One Year: [Ezekiel 11~13; James 1](#)

Kara and April left central Russia and traveled across six time zones to attend a retreat in Tallinn, Estonia, for women serving the Lord in Eastern Europe. Because of fogged-in airports and diverted flights, they had to spend an extra \$600 on air expenses. Kara felt guilty about leaving her husband to care for their two young children and to run their ministry. The unplanned financial burden added to her guilt, and she e-mailed her husband that she was having difficulty enjoying the retreat.

He told her not to worry about the extravagance and said, “God is, after all, the God who made us heirs with Him and co-heirs with Christ. The God who gave Eve to Adam. The Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. Heaven is the ultimate of this . . . but I also think that He has given us gifts to be enjoyed—and a time to enjoy them. And this time, for you, is now. Don’t worry—sacrifice is waiting for you aplenty when you get home.” We can benefit from his response.

As Kara was able then to enjoy the retreat, we too, as God’s children, can let ourselves enjoy without guilt the good things He sends our way (1 Tim. 6:17). We, in turn, can use those good gifts to bless others.

Meditate: Although sometimes we may receive from others Gifts that have a hidden guilt attached, The blessings we receive from God our Father Come to us by grace—and they’re unmatched!

Aphorism: Every good gift comes from the Father.

*November20(Friday)2009{[Psalm 36:5~10](#)}Key: How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! (Psalm 36:7)“God’s Little Blessings”Bible In One Year: [Ezekiel 14~15; James 2](#)

Our family was at Disney World a few years ago when God handed us one of His little blessings. Disney World is a huge place—107 acres huge, to be exact. You could walk around for days without seeing someone you know. My wife and I decided to do our own thing while our children sought out the really cool stuff. We parted at 9 a.m. and were planning a rendezvous around 6 p.m.

At about 2 p.m., my wife and I got a craving for tacos. We looked at our map and made our way to a Spanish-sounding place for Mexican food. We had just sat down with our food when we heard, “Hi, Mom. Hi, Dad.” Our amigos had, at the same time, a hankering for a hot burrito.

Ten minutes after they joined us, a violent summer storm ripped through the park with whipping winds, heavy rain, and loud thunder. My wife commented, “I’d be a wreck if the kids weren’t with us during this!” It seemed that God had orchestrated our meeting.

Ever notice those blessings from Him? Ever spend time thanking Him for His concern and care? Consider how remarkable it is that the One who created the universe cares enough to intervene in your life. “How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!”

Meditate: Thank You, God, that You’re our Father, Shepherd, Guardian, Guide, and Stay; How we praise You for the blessings You bestow on us each day!

Aphorism: Belonging to God brings boundless blessings.

***November 21 (Saturday) 2009** { [1 Samuel 3:1~10](#) } Key: It shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, “Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.” (1 Samuel 3:9) “Hearing Aid” Bible In One Year: [Ezekiel 16~17; James 3](#)

Joshua, a precocious 2-year-old, watched his mother baking cookies. “Please, may I have one?” he asked hopefully. “Not before supper,” his mother replied. Joshua ran tearfully to his room, then reappeared with this message: “Jesus just told me it’s okay to have a cookie now.” “Jesus didn’t tell *me*,” his mother retorted. Joshua replied, “You must not have been listening!”

Joshua’s motivation was wrong, but he was absolutely right about two things: God longs to speak to us, and we need to listen.

In 1 Samuel 3, another young boy learned those same ageless principles. When Samuel followed Eli’s counsel and prayed, “Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears,” he was open to receiving God’s powerful message (v.9). Like Samuel, we long to hear God speaking to us but often fail to discern His voice.

God spoke audibly to Samuel. Today He speaks to us by His Spirit through the Scriptures, other people, and our circumstances. But as a result of neglect and nonstop activity, some of us have become “hard of hearing.” We need a “spiritual hearing aid” like the one in Samuel’s prayer: “Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears” (v.9). This humble attitude is a real help for the spiritually hard of hearing.

Meditate: Adjusting Your Hearing Aid Set a specific time to read God’s Word each day. Meditate on what you have read. Make prayer a priority throughout the day.

Aphorism: God speaks through His Word—take time to listen.

***November 22 (Sunday) 2009** { [Acts 9:36~43](#) } Key: Dorcas . . . was full of good works and charitable deeds. (Acts 9:36) “Heartprints” Bible In One Year: [Ezekiel 18~19; James 4](#)

We leave fingerprints on doorknobs, on books, on walls, on keyboards. Each person’s fingerprints are unique, so we leave our identity on everything we touch. Some supermarkets are even testing a technology that allows customers to pay by fingerprint.

Each customer's unique print and bank account number are kept on file so that the only thing needed to pay a bill is a scan of their finger.

A woman in the early church left another kind of print—a "heartprint." Dorcas touched many people's lives through her unique gift of sewing and giving away garments. She's described as "full of good works and charitable deeds" (Acts 9:36). We too are to be "zealous for good works" (Titus 2:14). We each have a unique heartprint that can touch another.

An unknown author wrote this prayer about encouraging others: "O God, wherever I go today, help me leave heartprints! Heartprints of compassion, understanding, and love. Heartprints of kindness and genuine concern. May my heart touch a lonely neighbor or runaway daughter or anxious mother or even an aged grandfather. Send me out today to leave heartprints. And if someone should say, 'I felt your touch,' may that one sense Your love touching through me." Will you make this your prayer today?

Meditate: Just what do Christians look like? What sets their lives apart? They're ordinary people Who love God from the heart.

Aphorism: People with a heart for God have a heart for people.