

Bible study for this week 2/06/12~2/12/12

***February06(Monday),2012**{[Genesis 5:21~32](#)}Key: Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.([Genesis 5:24](#))“Charlie’s Walk On The Moon”Bible In One Year: [Exodus 39~40](#); [Matthew 23:23~39](#)

The documentary *In the Shadow of the Moon* includes the story of Charlie Duke, one of the *Apollo 16* astronauts launched to the moon in 1972. While the command ship orbited the moon, Duke and another astronaut landed the lunar module Orion on the moon’s surface. After 3 days of running experiments and collecting lunar rocks, the Apollo 16 crew safely returned to earth.

Later, Charlie had a spiritual transformation. He said it began when his friend invited him to a Bible study. After the meeting, Charlie prayed to Christ, “I give You my life, and if You’re real come into my life.” He then experienced an indescribable peace. It was so profound that he began to share his story with others. Charlie told them, “My walk on the moon lasted 3 days and it was a great adventure, but my walk with God lasts forever.”

The Bible tells us of another man who walked with God. “Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him” ([Gen. 5:24](#)). His spiritual walk with God was so close that God took him directly into eternity (see [Heb. 11:5](#)).

We can learn a lesson from Charlie and Enoch. For believers, no matter where our journey leads, our walk with God will last for eternity!

*Meditate:*Let me walk with You, dear Savior,Side by side and hand in hand;Keep me clean and pure and faithful Till I reach the heavenly land.

*Aphorism:*Keep eternity’s goal in sight by walking daily in God’s light.

***February07(Tuesday),2012**{[Luke 10:38~42](#)}Key: Martha was distracted with much serving.([Luke 10:40](#))“Distracted”Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 1~3](#); [Matthew 24:1~28](#)

A friend recalls:The university where I teach as an adjunct professor provides laptop computers for its students. While this can be an aid to the students in many ways, I have discovered one way it hinders learning: The laptops can become a distraction during class.

Because the students take notes on their laptops, they have them open on their desks during class. The problem is that they find texting their friends, visiting Facebook, or checking things on the Internet more interesting than my lectures.

A laptop loses value in the learning environment if it becomes a distraction—even if what the students are doing is positive.

Good things can do that. Things that have value can draw our attention away from what we should be paying attention to. This was true for Martha. [Luke 10:40](#) says she was “distracted with much serving,” which took her away from spending time with Jesus. In the same way, a good hobby can have value in and of itself. But if it distracts you from your family responsibilities or relationship with God, some changes are needed.

Are life’s good options distracting you from what your primary priorities should be? Return, as Jesus told Martha, to what “is needed.”

Meditate: A Prayer: Help me, Lord, to make and to keep right priorities. To put You and time with You first. Give me discernment and the willingness to obey You today. Amen.

*Aphorism:*We were created to glorify God.

***February08(Wednesday),2012**{[2 Peter 3:1-9](#)}Key: The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness.([2 Peter 3:9](#))“In Praise Of Slowness”Bible In One

Year: [Leviticus 4~5](#); [Matthew 24:29~51](#)

If there were a contest for most popular virtue, I suspect that “fast” would beat “best.” Many parts of the world seem to be obsessed with speed. The “fast” craze, however, is getting us nowhere—fast.

“The time has come to challenge our obsession with doing everything more quickly,” says Carl Honoré in his book *In Praise of Slowness*. “Speed is not always the best policy.”

According to the Bible, he’s right. Peter warned that in the last days people would doubt God because it seems He is slow (“slack”) in fulfilling His promise to return. Peter pointed out, however, that this seeming slowness is a good thing. God is actually demonstrating His patience by giving people more time to repent ([2 Peter 3:9](#)), and also being true to His character, as in patient or slow to anger ([Ex. 34:6](#)).

We too must be slow to become angry—and slow to speak ([James 1:19](#)). According to James, “quickness” is reserved for our ears. We’re supposed to be quick to listen. Think about how much trouble we could avoid if we learned to listen—really listen, not just stop talking—before we speak.

In our rush to meet goals and deadlines, let’s remember to speed up our listening and to slow down our tempers and our tongues.

Meditate: Dear heart, let perfect patience be thy goal; It is the way earth’s noblest souls have trod. ’Tis just a calm adjustment of the soul In all things to the perfect will of God.

Aphorism: **When you’re tempted to lose patience with another, think how patient God has been with you.**

***February 09 (Thursday), 2012** {[Hebrews 11:1~10](#)} Key: In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ([Philippians 4:6](#)) “God Incidents” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 6~7](#); [Matthew 25:1~30](#)

In the normal course of providence, God works in and through creation, not despite it. For this reason, some answers to prayer are difficult to prove with certainty.

“Only faith vouches for the connection,” C. S. Lewis writes. “No empirical proof could establish it.” We believe a prayer has been answered not because of any scientific criteria proving it, but because we have faith.

Most of the ways we encounter God—nature, the Bible, the Lord’s Supper, the church, other people—include things we can touch. God’s own state, though, is the realm of spirit. Prayer reflects that difference between us.

Although we may ask God to intervene directly, it should not surprise us if He responds in a more hidden way in cooperation with our own choices. An alcoholic prays, “Lord, keep me from drink today.” The answer to that prayer will likely come from the inside—from a stiffening resolve or a cry for help to a loyal friend—rather than from some marvel like the magical disappearance of liquor bottles from a cabinet.

Whether God supernaturally intervenes or is giving us the power to obey Him, we trust His character. We see a true partnership, intimate and intertwined.

Meditate: Help me to walk aright, More by faith, less by sight; Lead me with heavenly light—Teach me Thy way.

Aphorism: **An important part of praying is a willingness to be part of the answer.**

***February 10 (Friday), 2012** {[Luke 12:13~21](#)} Key: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ([Luke 12:34](#)) “Rich Toward God” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 8~10](#); [Matthew 25:31~46](#)

I watch the fluctuations of the stock market and reflect on the effects of fear and greed. A character in a 1980s movie had this philosophy: “Greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right! Greed works! . . . Greed [will] save . . . the USA!” What foolish thinking!

I think of that occasion when a man asked Jesus to serve as an arbiter and make his brother share their inheritance. Jesus refused the request but went on to do the man a greater kindness. He pointed out the motive behind the man’s request and its consequences: “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” ([Luke 12:15](#)).

Then Jesus told a parable about a man who harvested a bumper crop and began to make plans to increase and enjoy his riches. He concluded: “God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God” (vv.20-21).

The trouble with greed is that ultimately our goods go. But worse—we go. Better to store up treasure in heaven, invest in spiritual riches, and become “rich toward God.”

Meditate: The treasures of earth do not last, But God has prepared us a place Where someday with Him we will dwell, Enjoying the riches of grace.

Aphorism: **Our real wealth is what we invest for eternity.**

***February 11 (Saturday), 2012** {[James 4:13~17](#)} Key: What is your life? It is even a vapor. ([James 4:14](#)) “The Other Side” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 11~12](#); [Matthew 26:1~25](#)

When someone said to my friend, “See you in a year,” it sounded odd when he replied, “Yes, see you on the other side.” He meant that he’d see him on the other side of a one-year deployment for the US Navy. But because the phrase is often used of heaven, it made me think about the uncertainty of life. I wondered, *Who will be here in another year? Who might by then be on the other side—in heaven?*

We certainly don’t know what the next year—or hour—will bring. In his epistle, James wrote about this uncertainty. He rebuked the greedy merchants for boasting about what they would do that day, the next day, or even the next year (4:13). Their sin wasn’t that they were making plans; it was forgetting God and arrogantly boasting about those business plans.

James reminded them: “What is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (v.14). Commentator Peter Davids says that James was pointing out their foolishness and saying, in essence, “Come now, you who make plans—you don’t even understand how little control you have over life itself.”

No part of life is outside the control of God. So when we make plans, we need to remember, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that” (v.15).

Meditate: Tomorrow’s plans I do not know, I only know this minute; But He will say, “This is the way, By faith now walk ye in it.”

Aphorism: **Write your plans in pencil and let God have the eraser.**

***February 12 (Sunday), 2012** {[Philippians 2:12~18](#)} Key: Become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world. ([Philippians 2:15](#)) “Send The Light” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 13](#); [Matthew 26:26~50](#)

American businessman Mark Bent has spent \$250,000 to develop and manufacture an

affordable solar-powered flashlight. Thousands have been distributed free or at low cost to people living in African refugee camps. One daily solar charge provides 7 hours of life-giving illumination for people in homes, schools, and medical clinics where darkness had encouraged crime and violence.

The contrast between darkness and light is a prominent image in the Bible's presentation of Jesus the Messiah. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined" ([Isa. 9:2](#)). "In [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it" ([John 1:4~5](#)).

It's our privilege as followers of Jesus to be His light-bearers today. Paul urged the Christians in Philippi to become "blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" ([Phil. 2:15](#)).

Instead of being afraid or oppressed by the spiritual darkness around us, we can rely on the grace that God gives His children to shine for Him.

Meditate: Lord, may I be a shining light For all the world to see Your goodness and Your love displayed As You reach out through me.

Aphorism: **Jesus came to give light to a dark world.**