

## **Bible study for this week** 2/13/12~2/19/12

\***February 13 (Monday), 2012** {[Revelation 19:1~9](#)} Key: Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! ([Revelation 19:9](#)) "Reunion Dinner" Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 14; Matthew 26:51~75](#)

Many Chinese go to great lengths to attend a traditional annual reunion dinner with their families. Held on the eve of the Lunar New Year, the reunion dinner usually takes place at the home of their parents or eldest sibling.

Chinese working overseas have to arrange their travel bookings early to ensure they have tickets for the heavily booked airline flights and bus journeys. To fail to book early is to risk missing out on the family reunion.

The Bible tells of an even more important reunion dinner in heaven. [Revelation 19:9](#) calls it "the marriage supper of the Lamb." Unlike the Lunar New Year reunion dinner, however, no one knows the date for this event except God ([Matt. 24:36](#)). Nor do we have to worry about making travel arrangements.

Who is invited to this heavenly reunion dinner? All those who belong to God's family will be there, "those who believe in [Jesus'] name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" ([John 1:12~13](#)).

Will you be at the reunion dinner in heaven? You can secure your place at the heavenly banquet by trusting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior today.

*Meditate:* How Can You Have The Assurance Of Heaven? Recognize your sinfulness ([Rom. 3:23](#)); believe Jesus died for you ([Acts 16:31](#)); receive Him as Savior ([John 1:12](#)); trust His promise ([John 20:31](#)).

*Aphorism:* Christ believed is salvation received and heaven assured.

\***February 14 (Tuesday), 2012** {[John 13:1-5, 33~35](#)} Key: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. ([John 13:35](#)) "Showing Real Love" Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 15~16; Matthew 27:1~26](#)

Chinese New Year happens to fall on the same day as Valentine's Day in 2010. While these two festivals have very different origins, there are some similarities in how they are celebrated. In both cases, loved ones give gifts to express love for one another. Whether it is giving roses to your beloved on Valentine's Day or *hong bao* (red packets with money) to family and friends on Chinese New Year, they represent tokens of love.

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to "love one another," because "by this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" ([John 13:34~35](#)).

The love that our Lord wants His disciples to have for one another is different from the romantic kind displayed between loving couples and the brotherly kind shown between friends or family. It's an unselfish love. The Greek word John used in Jesus' command is *agape*—God's kind of love that expects nothing in return. That was what Jesus showed to His disciples when He "poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet" (v.5). That is the kind of love He displayed when He went to the cross for us.

Today, look for someone to whom you can show such unselfish love.

*Meditate:* Lord, teach us the secret of loving, The love You are asking today; Then help us to love one another; For this we most earnestly pray.

*Aphorism:* Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.— [Galatians 6:2](#)

**\*February 15 (Wednesday), 2012** { [Hebrews 11:24~34](#) } Key: Who through faith . . . out of weakness were made strong. ([Hebrews 11:33~34](#)) “Defining Failure” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 17~18; Matthew 27:27~50](#)

During the Great Depression, many people in the US lived in shantytowns made up of plywood, tarps, and blankets. These decrepit dwellings, known as “Hooverilles,” housed those who had been evicted from their homes. Many blamed President Herbert Hoover for the economic woes.

Ironically, Hoover’s apparent ineffectiveness as a leader was in sharp contrast to his previous record. Earlier, Hoover’s expertise in geological engineering led to successful mining projects in Australia and China. He also effectively spearheaded humanitarian efforts. But when the stock market crashed in October 1929, President Hoover was in circumstances beyond his control. He would be forever tied with the economic depression of the 1930s.

One major fiasco, however, does not mean one’s whole life is a failure. What if we remembered Abraham only as a deceiver ([Gen. 12:10~20](#)), Moses as disobedient to God ([Num. 20:1~13](#)), or David as a murderer? (2 Sam. 11). Despite their sins, these men are remembered for their persevering faith: “who through faith . . . out of weakness were made strong” ([Heb. 11:33~34](#)).

Our life is not a failure if we’ve repented of our sins. God can still use us to serve Him.

*Meditate:* The lessons we learn from our failures Are lessons that help us succeed, And if we are wise and we heed them, Then failure is just what we need.

*Aphorism.* **Success often rises out of the ashes of failure.**

**\*February 16 (Thursday), 2012** { [Galatians 1:3~10](#) } Key: There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ([Galatians 1:7](#)) “Detecting Toxins” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 19~20; Matthew 27:51~66](#)

San Francisco and New York City are using bluegill fish to check for the presence of toxins in their water supply, which could be a possible target for a terrorist attack. A small number of bluegills are kept in a tank at the bottom of some water treatment plants because the fish are sensitive to chemical imbalances in their environment. When a disturbance is present in the water, the bluegills react against it.

Like these bluegills, Paul wanted the Galatians to beware of and react against any toxic disturbance in the “true gospel” that was being preached. The toxin was defined as the false principle that God grants acceptance to people and considers them righteous on the basis of their obedience to a set of rules (especially circumcision and dietary laws). In short, obedience to the law was needed, apart from faith in Jesus. This false teaching was a toxic disturbance of the truth and the Galatians were told to react strongly against it. Paul said that anyone preaching a gospel that is not based on grace through faith in Christ alone should be accursed ([Gal. 1:8~9](#)).

Let’s faithfully study the Scriptures so we can detect the toxins of false teaching and proclaim the truth of God’s wonderful salvation through faith in Jesus.

*Meditate:* Lord, teach us from Your holy Word All error to discern, And by Your Spirit’s light help us From Satan’s snares to turn.

*Aphorism.* **If you know the truth, you can discern what’s false.**

**\*February 17 (Friday), 2012** { [Isaiah 43:1~13](#) } Key: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. ([Isaiah 43:2](#)) “In The Car Wash” Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 21~22;](#)

## [Matthew 28](#)

I'll never forget my first experience using an automatic car wash. Approaching it with the dread of going to the dentist, I pushed the money into the slot, nervously checked and rechecked my windows, eased the car up to the line, and waited. Powers beyond my control began moving my car forward as if on a conveyor belt. There I was, cocooned inside, when a thunderous rush of water, soap, and brushes hit my car from all directions. *What if I get stuck in here or water crashes in?* I thought irrationally. Suddenly the waters ceased. After a blow-dry, my car was propelled into the outside world again, clean and polished.

In the midst of all this, I remembered stormy times in my life when it seemed I was on a conveyor belt, a victim of forces beyond my control. "Car-wash experiences," I now call them. I remembered that whenever I passed through deep waters my Redeemer had been with me, sheltering me against the rising tide ([Isa. 43:2](#)). When I came out on the other side, which I always did, I was able to say with joy and confidence, "He is a faithful God!"

Are you in the middle of a car-wash experience? Trust God to bring you through to the other side. You'll then be a shining testimony of His keeping power.

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

*Aphorism:* **A tunnel of testing can produce a shining testimony.**

**\*February 18 (Saturday), 2012** {[Psalm 62](#)} Key: Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. ([Psalm 62:8](#)) "Tell It All" Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 23~24](#); [Mark 1:1~22](#)

A friend recalls: A clerk who helped me purchase a small digital voice recorder told me that he kept one just like it in his car when he worked in California. "When I began driving home after work I switched it on," he said, "and I talked about everything that happened that day on the job, good and bad. When I pulled into my driveway, I hit the erase button." Then he smiled. After telling everything to his voice recorder, he apparently had no need to go over the day's problems with his wife or family.

It reminded me of how often I needlessly rehearse my disappointments and problems to others instead of telling them to God. The psalmist wrote: "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us" ([Ps. 62:8](#)). Twice he spoke of waiting silently for God, his rock and salvation (vv. 1-2, 5-7).

While there is great comfort in sharing our difficulties with a friend, we miss the greatest help if we fail to bring them to the Lord. Joseph Scriven said it so well.

*Meditate:* *What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!*

*Aphorism:* **No matter where we are, Jesus is only a prayer away.**

**\*February 19 (Sunday), 2012** {[James 1:1~11](#)} Key: My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ([James 1:2~3](#)) "If Day" Bible In One Year: [Leviticus 25](#); [Mark 1:23~45](#)

February 19, 1942, was a fascinating day for Canada. It was "If Day"—a World War II staging of a fake Nazi invasion of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The intent was to show what it would be like "if" Canada fell under the harsh occupation of Nazi forces, and so that Canadians would support the war effort more fully.

As one person described the event: “If Day brought home the reality of Nazi occupation. Manitobans got a very bitter taste of nearly every aspect of Nazi brutality.” The key word there is *nearly*. While “If Day” was a valiant attempt to educate people about danger in the world, it could not begin to recreate the actual suffering that was sweeping Europe.

Real trials in life are not *ifs*—they are *whens*. In fact, life’s most profound lessons cannot simply be observed, they must be experienced. It is there, in actual seasons of heartache and loss, that we gain greater insights into life, faith, and our need of God. To that end, James wrote, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience” ([James 1:2~3](#)).

Trials come because we live in a broken world, but we decide if we will learn the lessons taught. There are no “ifs” about it—it is an important way to grow.

***Meditate:*** Though you cannot see the outcome, Trust the Lord—He knows what’s best; Be assured He sees your trial, And He’s with you in your test.

***Aphorism:*** Tough times can teach us to trust.