

## **Bible study for this week** 3/05/12~3/11/12

\***Murch05(Monday),2012**{[1 Thess. 4:13~18](#)}Key: I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.([1 Thessalonians 4:13](#))“The Right Information”Bible In One Year: [Numbers 34~36](#); [Mark 9:30~50](#)

Our flight had been airborne about 15 minutes when the pilot announced that the aircraft had a serious problem the crew was trying to analyze. A few minutes later, he announced that it was a vibration and that we would have to return to the airport. Then the flight attendants made a series of step-by-step announcements explaining what was going on and what would happen once we were on the ground. In an event that could have been terrifying, the fears of the passengers were relieved because we were given the right information.

In the first century, a group of believers in Thessalonica were afraid that their believing loved ones who had died were gone forever and would miss out on the second coming of Christ. For that reason, Paul wrote, “I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope” ([1 Thess. 4:13](#)). Paul’s words of comfort were intended to soften their fears by giving them the right information, which made all the difference in the world. While grieving their loss, they could still have hope of a coming reunion with those who were in Christ.

In seasons of loss, we too can find comfort and hope because the Bible has given us the right information.

*Meditate:* He’s coming back! The dead shall rise,Caught up to meet Him in the skies.Upon that hope my soul relies;He’s coming back!

*Aphorism:*Death is not a period—it’s only a comma.

\***Murch06(Tuesday),2012**{[Philippians 4:4~7](#)}Key: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. ([Philippians 4:7](#))“Is It Well?”Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 1~2](#); [Mark 10:1~31](#)

As the high school chorale prepared to sing Horatio G. Spafford’s classic hymn, “It Is Well With My Soul,” a teen stepped forward to tell the song’s familiar history. Spafford wrote the song while on a ship that was near the spot at sea where his four daughters perished.

As I listened to that introduction and then the words sung by the teenagers, a flood of emotions washed over me. “Where his four daughters perished” were hard words to grasp as I listened again to Spafford’s words of faith. Having lost one daughter suddenly, I find the idea of losing four unfathomable.

How could it be “well” for Spafford in his grief? I hear the words “When peace like a river attendeth my way” and remember where peace can be found. Paul says in Philippians 4 that it can be found as our heart-prayers are voiced to God (v.6). By trustful praying, we unburden our hearts, divest our anxieties, and release the grip on our grief. And we can gain “the peace of God” (v.7)—an inexplicable, divine calmness of spirit. This peace supersedes our ability to understand our circumstances (v.7), and it is a guard on our heart, through Jesus, that protects us enough to allow us to whisper, even in the pain, “It is well with my soul.”

*Meditate:* When peace, like a river, attended my way, When sorrows like sea-billows roll—Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Aphorism:* Jesus never makes a mistake.

\*Murch07(Wednesday),2012{[Psalm 103:19~22](#)}Key: Bless the Lord, you His angels.([Psalm 103:20](#))“God’s Helpers”Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 3~4](#); [Mark 10:32~52](#)

A friend recalls: I was having a conversation with some children about God and superheroes when Tobias asked a question. An imaginative, curious 5-year-old, he asked anyone listening: “Does God have a sidekick like Hercules does?” His wiser, older brother, age 7, quickly responded: “Yes, He has thousands of them—they’re His angels.”

Angels are a popular topic of discussion, and people believe a number of myths about them. For instance, some people pray to angels, thinking they are on the same level as God Himself. And some believe that people become angels when they die. But here’s what the Bible, our authority, teaches:

- God created angels ([Col. 1:15~17](#)).
- Angels worship God ([Neh. 9:6](#)), and are known by these terms: archangels ([Jude 1:9](#)), cherubim ([2 Kings 19:15](#)), and seraphim ([Isa. 6:1~3](#)).
- They minister to God’s people ([Heb. 1:13~14](#)) by guarding and protecting them ([Ps. 91:9~12](#)).
- They are given special assignments by God ([Matt. 1:20](#); [Luke 1:26](#)).
- God’s angels rejoice when we repent of sin and turn to Christ for salvation ([Luke 15:7,10](#)).

Only God deserves our worship. So let’s join the angels in singing His praises!

*Meditate:* All hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.

*Aphorism:* Angels are God’s special helpers.

\*Murch08(Thursday),2012{[Luke 15:1~7](#)}Key: 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](#))“To The Rescue”Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 5~7](#); [Mark 11:1~18](#)

A friend recalls: Martie and I recently traveled to some major cities in several countries. We were struck with how lost our world is and grieved over the millions who have never heard the message of the saving grace of Jesus. The thought of reaching our world for Christ felt overwhelming.

Until I remembered the story of the boy walking on a beach. Encountering hundreds of starfish dying under the heat of the burning sun, he started throwing them back into the sea. A passerby asked, “What are you doing?” “Saving their lives,” the boy replied. “Forget it,” the man said. “You can’t possibly save all these starfish.” “Right,” replied the boy, “but it makes a big difference to each one I do save.”

I love the boy’s perspective. When the wave of sin threw us onto the shore to die, God sent His Son to walk on the beach to rescue all who would repent. And, as Jesus told His listeners in Luke 15, each time someone is rescued, heaven throws a party. “I say to you that likewise 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](#)).

Has heaven rejoiced over your rescue? If so, join the ranks of those who reach other lost souls with the rescuing grace of Jesus.

*Meditate:* Your love, O God, would spare no pain To conquer death and win; You sent Your only Son to die To rescue us from sin.

*Aphorism:* When you’ve been rescued, you’ll want to rescue others.

**\*Murch09(Friday),2012**{ [Deut. 8:1~2,10~18](#)}Key: Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments. ([Deuteronomy 8:11](#))“Don’t Forget”Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 8~10; Mark 11:19~33](#)

One of my favorite Far Side cartoons is captioned “Superman in his later years.” It shows the elderly Man of Steel perched on a window ledge, ready to leap, as he looks back and says, “Now where was I going?”

Forgetfulness happens to us all, and while our occasional lapses may be amusing or annoying, a lack of memory toward God can be disastrous.

With the people of Israel poised to enter the Promised Land, Moses challenged them to “remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness” ([Deut. 8:2](#)) and to “beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments” (v.11).

Forgetting God can spring from: *Testing* (vv.2~4). God allowed His people to hunger and then provided manna. When we lack the necessities of life, it’s easy to feel that God has somehow forgotten us. *Satisfaction* (vv.10~11). Abundance or need may produce spiritual amnesia because both cause us to focus on ourselves, not on God who provides. *Pride* (vv.12~16). If prosperity brings a feeling of self-accomplishment, then we have forgotten God.

Humility, obedience, and praise help us remember God’s faithful provision and care. Let’s not forget to thank Him today for all He’s done.

*Meditate:* Lest I forget Gethsemane, Lest I forget Thine agony, Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.

*Aphorism:* Never let the abundance of God’s gifts cause you to forget the Giver.

**\*Murch10(Saturday),2012**{[2 Peter 1:5~15](#)}Key: I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things.([2 Peter 1:12](#))“Reminders”Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 11~13; Mark 12:1~27](#)

Jill Price has an extraordinary memory that has stunned scientists. In 2006, her overdeveloped memory was described in a scientific journal article, “A Case of Unusual Autobiographical Remembering.” Price has no special aptitude for memorizing lists of words, numbers, facts, or languages. But she does remember what happened to her on any given day over the last 30 years. Name any date and Price will tell you what day of the week it was, the weather, what she had for breakfast, the TV programs she watched, and the people she spoke with.

Few of us have a memory like that. That’s why we need reminders to complete simple tasks and keep our appointments. This is especially true when it comes to spiritual truth. The apostle Peter showed he understood the need of spiritual reminders when he wrote: “I will not be negligent to *remind* you always of these things . . . . Yes, I think it is right . . . to stir you up by *reminding* you . . . . Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a *reminder* of these things” ([2 Peter 1:12~15](#)).

No matter what kind of memory we have, we need to be reminded of biblical principles. Daily Bible reading, small group studies, and involvement in a local church can all help us to remember God’s vital truths.

*Meditate:* Remembering the Word of God Does not come naturally; We need reminders to fulfill What God wants us to be.

*Aphorism:* Let God’s Word fill your memory, rule your heart, and guide your steps.

**\*Murch11(Sunday),2012**{[Genesis 32:3~13](#)}Key: I am not worthy of the least of all the

mercies. ([Genesis 32:10](#)) “God’s Mercies” Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 14~16; Mark 12:28~44](#)

Less than the least of all God’s mercies.” This was the motto 17<sup>th</sup>-century English poet and clergyman George Herbert engraved on his signet ring, and it was the phrase with which he signed his letters and books. Jacob had spoken these words when he pondered God’s goodness despite his own sin and shame: “I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant” ([Gen. 32:10](#)).

The word “mercies” is from the Hebrew word *chesed*, meaning “God’s enduring love.” I think it is significant that it rose from the heart of one who saw himself as utterly unworthy.

Relying solely on God’s faithful love, Jacob cries out: “Deliver me!” What an odd combination of thoughts: “I am not worthy . . . . Deliver me” (vv.10~11). Unlike some who seem to have it all together, Jacob knew that everything he brought to God had been ruined by sin. He thought of himself as a man undeserving of God’s grace. But his hope lay not in his worth but in the promise of God to look with favor on those who throw themselves on His mercy. Humility and contrition are the keys that open the heart of God.

As He did with Jacob, God hears us when we humbly cry out to Him for mercy.

*Meditate:* For mercies so great, what return can I make? For mercies so constant and sure? I’ll love Him, I’ll serve Him with all that I have As long as my life shall endure.

*Aphorism:* **Mercy is an unearned blessing bestowed by God on an unworthy recipient.**