

Bible study for this week 3/12/12~3/18/12

***Murch12(Monday),2012**{ [1 Cor. 1:10~17](#)}Key:I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you. ([1 Corinthians 1:10](#))“United Goal” Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 17~19](#); [Mark 13:1~20](#)

The spotted owl has been disappearing in the US. Originally it was believed that old growth logging was its greatest threat. But research shows that one of the owl’s relatives may be the problem. For the past 15 years, the barred owl has been rapidly migrating westward. Barred owls, which used to live exclusively east of the Mississippi, compete for the same food as spotted owls but are more aggressive and adaptable.

In a similar way, our greatest spiritual conflict often comes not from outside the church, but from other Christians. This was happening in the church of Corinth, and Paul took some time to address the divisive spirit that had grown in this congregation. This spirit threatened the unity of the church. Paul, with a pastoral nudge, encouraged the Corinthians to agree on the essentials and not be divided over the nonessentials. People were quarreling because they were aligning themselves with different Christian leaders—Paul, Apollos, Peter, and even Christ. In creating these divisions, they were valuing their favorite leader above unity in Christ.

Paul said the one essential that should unify the church is preaching the good news. That should be our united goal as well.

Meditate: Lord, bless our congregation, We humbly ask of Thee, That we may walk together In perfect unity.

Aphorism: **A united church is a strong church.**

***Murch13(Tuesday),2012**{ [Psalm 138](#)}Key: Your right hand will save me.([Psalm 138:7](#))“A Safe Pair Of Hands”Bible In One Year:[Deuteronomy 20~22](#); [Mark 13:21~37](#)

Edwin van der Sar, goalkeeper for the Manchester United soccer team, had a “safe” pair of hands. He kept the ball from entering his team’s goal for 1,302 minutes, a world record in one season! That means that for almost 15 games of 90 minutes each, no one was able to score even one goal against his team while he was guarding the goalposts. But one goal by an opposing team in March 2009 ended his record.

The psalmist David found comfort in the safest pair of hands—God’s hands. He wrote of God’s protection in Psalm 138, “You will stretch out Your hand . . . and Your right hand will save me” (v.7). Like David, we can look to God’s safe hands to keep us from spiritual danger and defeat.

Another assurance from God’s Word for followers of Christ is [Jude 1:24~25](#): “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” That doesn’t mean we’ll never stumble. But it does mean we won’t stumble so badly that God cannot pick us up.

God’s safe pair of hands can never fail—ever!

Meditate: From Him, who loves me now so well, What power my soul can sever? Shall life or death, or earth or hell? No—I am His forever.

Aphorism: **No place is more secure than to be in God’s hands.**

***Murch14(Wednesday),2012**{ [Romans 8:12~17](#)}Key: Having predestined us to adoption

as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself. ([Ephesians 1:5](#)) “Unique Privileges” Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 23~25; Mark 14:1~26](#)

In *Forever Young: My Friendship with John F. Kennedy, Jr.*, Billy Noonan recalls the life experiences he shared with the son of President John Kennedy.

In 1980, as one of the stories goes, John Jr. and Billy were invited aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy* aircraft carrier. On a guided tour of the ship, the two young men and their guide inadvertently entered a restricted area. When an officer stopped them, the guide pointed to John and said, “This is his father’s ship.” Snapping to attention, the officer saluted John. He explained his understanding that when a US Navy ship is named for someone, it is considered that person’s ship. Thus, as the son of the man for whom the ship was named, John Jr. had unique privileges.

This illustrates a vital spiritual principle. As adopted children in God’s family, we who have been saved possess the position of sonship. Paul wrote that as believers we are “predestined . . . to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself” ([Eph. 1:5](#)). By virtue of this sonship, we have the unique privileges that belong to the children of the King of kings.

In life’s challenging voyage, we can take courage that our “Abba, Father” ([Rom. 8:15](#)) owns the ship and shares all with us. Praise God, we are joint-heirs with Christ!

Meditate: The wealth of God is ours to share Through Jesus Christ the Lord, Joint-heirs with Him we claim it, then, According to His Word.

Aphorism: A Christian’s inheritance is guaranteed forever!

***Murch15(Thursday),2012**{[Romans 8:31~39](#)}Key: Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ([Romans 8:37](#)) “Last Line Of Defense” Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 26~27; Mark 14:27~53](#)

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, was the site of a battle that turned the tide of America’s Civil War. One of the focal points of the conflict was a rocky knoll called Little Round Top where Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and the men of the 20th Maine Infantry stood their ground. Had the Confederate troops gotten past Chamberlain’s men, some historians believe the Union army would have been surrounded—possibly leading to the loss of the war. The “20th Maine” was the last line of defense.

Followers of Christ are also engaged in a vital war. As we battle “the wiles of the devil” ([Eph. 6:11](#)), we are called to wear the armor of God and to stand firm in the conflict (vv.10~18).

And like the Gettysburg soldiers, we have a “last line of defense.” For us, though, this defense is greater than any human force. In [Romans 8:31~39](#), Paul says that our ultimate confidence is in the undying love of Christ. So complete is our protection that nothing can “separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (v.39).

When the enemy seems overwhelming and all seems lost, remember, we have an unbeatable last line of defense: “We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (v.37).

Meditate: We are more than conquerors Through Him who loved us so; The Christ who dwells within us Is the greatest power we know.

Aphorism: God’s plan always leads to victory.

***Murch16(Friday),2012**{[John 3:22~30](#)}Key: He must increase, but I must decrease. ([John 3:30](#)) “The Real Hero” Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 28~29; Mark 14:54~72](#)

Louis B. Neumiller was known for his humility, integrity, and commitment to quality. As president of the Caterpillar Tractor Company from 1941~54, he led the manufacturer of earth-moving equipment through the challenges of World War II into global expansion. In the book *In Their Time: The Greatest Business Leaders of the Twentieth Century*, authors Mayo and Nohria describe Neumiller's leadership as "success without fanfare." His mark of greatness, they note, was that he took his identity out of the business and "let his company become a hero instead of himself."

We see the same quality of selflessness in John the Baptist, the dynamic preacher who repeatedly affirmed his mission of paving the way for the Messiah. When John's followers became concerned that Jesus was baptizing people and crowds were following Him, John replied: "You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.' . . . He must increase, but I must decrease" ([John 3:28,30](#)).

As followers of Christ, are we lifting Him up instead of seeking honor for ourselves? Rather than being disappointed when our contribution is unnoticed, we should be glad because our highest privilege is to magnify the Lord. He's the hero!

Honoring Him is the mark of greatness.

Meditate: Lord, teach us to be humble. May our desire be that You be known, honored, loved, and exalted in every thought and action—above ourselves. Amen.

Aphorism: **The great Christian is one who is small enough to let God be great in his life.**

***Murch17(Saturday),2012**{[Psalm 46](#)}Key:The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. ([Psalm 9:9](#))"A Good God"Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 30~31; Mark 15:1~25](#)

A friend recalls: When my brother-in-law was a missionary in Mali, West Africa, he was involved in a traffic accident. A man had wandered into the road in front of Chuck's motorcycle. The cycle struck the man and sent Chuck and the bike sliding along the ground for more than 200 feet. Shortly after Chuck regained consciousness in the hospital, his doctor told him he had been "really lucky." Chuck smiled and replied, "God is good."

Later he thought about the day's events. The man who was struck hadn't received any permanent injuries, and Chuck would also recover from his injuries. But what if one of them had been killed? He thought, *God would be no less good.*

When we experience tragedy, we may wonder about God's goodness. Is God always good? Yes, He is. He doesn't promise that bad things will never happen to us, but He does promise to be "our refuge and strength" ([Ps. 46:1](#)). He doesn't promise that we will never walk through heart-wrenching circumstances, but He promises that we won't be alone (23:4).

God is good—no matter what suffering we are experiencing. Even when we don't understand, we can say with Habakkuk, "Yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (3:18).

Meditate: O taste and see that God is good To all who seek His face; Yea, blest the one who trusts in Him, Confiding in His grace.

Aphorism: **God tests our faith so that we may trust His faithfulness.**

***Murch18(Sunday),2012**{[Matthew 4:18~25](#)}Key: Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. ([Matthew 4:19](#))"Who Are You?"Bible In One Year: [Deuteronomy 32~34; Mark 15:26~47](#)

If someone were to ask, "Who are you?" my guess is that you would tell a little about

yourself and what you do—“I’m an electrician” or “I’m a nurse.” But that’s not really who you are—it’s what you do. Which leads to the question, If what you do is who you are, who will you be when you stop doing what you’re doing?!

Who you are is found in your relationship to Jesus. And this sense of identity will drive your behavior. Take Matthew, for example. As a tax collector during the reign of the Roman Empire, his life was driven by greed. But everything changed the day Jesus showed up and invited Matthew to follow Him ([Matt. 9:9](#)). Suddenly Matthew had a whole new identity as a follower of Christ! And he wasn’t the only one. We also read about four fishermen in [Matthew 4:18~25](#), Peter, Andrew, James, and John, who left their nets to follow Him.

Jesus is a compelling Person, and He is still looking for followers. He wants to make something of your life by giving you the identity of a follower of Jesus. It doesn’t mean giving up your career, but it does mean that you will do your work—and all of life—according to His will and ways.

So next time someone asks, “Who are you?” I hope you’ll answer, “I’m a follower of Jesus”!

Meditate: Help me to study hardworking every day, follow my according to confidence; The greatest hope in all one's life, put down winners to like wholeheartedly.

Aphorism: If you are a follower of Jesus, that’s all the identity you need.