

## **Bible study for this week** 4/30/12~5/06/12

\***April 30 (Tuesday), 2012** {[Proverbs 12:17~22](#)} Key: Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight. ([Proverbs 12:22](#)) “**Honestly**” Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 8~9](#); [Luke 21:1~19](#)

Today is National Honesty Day in the United States. It is a little-known designation for April 30, but an important one nonetheless.

Author M. Hirsh Goldberg established National Honesty Day in the early 1990s as a way to honor the honorable and encourage honesty. He said that April 30 was selected because “April begins with a day dedicated to lying [April Fool’s Day] and should end on a higher moral note.”

Honesty Day would be a good time to review the value of this trait according to God’s Word. Honesty is not as easy as it seems—but we please God by striving for it.

An understanding of honesty begins with recognizing that God—our ultimate example—is truth ([Deut. 32:4](#)) and that He cannot lie ([Num. 23:19](#); [Heb. 6:18](#)). Also, He hates falsehood ([Prov. 6:16~19](#)). Beyond that, all lies have as their originator Satan himself ([John 8:44](#)).

For our part, we can use these Scriptures as our guide: “A righteous man hates lying” ([Prov. 13:5](#)); love rejoices in truth ([1 Cor. 13:6](#)); lying is part of the old nature ([Col. 3:9](#)); growth means setting aside deceit ([1 Peter 2:1](#)); and speaking truth declares righteousness ([Prov. 12:17](#)).

Let’s make every day Honesty Day.

*Meditate:* Help me, dear Lord, to be honest and true In all that I say and all that I do; Give me the courage to do what is right, To bring to the world a glimpse of Your light.

*Aphorism:* People who trust God’s Word should be people whose word can be trusted.

\***May 01 (Tuesday), 2012** {[Isaiah 55:1~6](#)} Key: Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? ([Isaiah 55:2](#)) “**The Search For Satisfaction**” Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 10~11](#); [Luke 21:20~38](#)

When it comes to jigsaw puzzles, we all know that to enjoy a satisfying outcome you need all the pieces. In many ways, life is like that. We spend our days putting it together, hoping to create a complete picture out of all the scattered parts.

Yet sometimes it seems like a piece is missing. Perhaps we’ve been pursuing the wrong pieces to the puzzle. Even though we may know that life without God at the center is a life that has lost the most important piece, do we live as though He isn’t particularly relevant? And even though we may attend church regularly, is He the throbbing center of our lives? Sometimes we grow accustomed to feeling distant from God. This makes it easier to sin, complicating the sense that something important is missing.

But no matter how far we may drift from God, He wants us near. He appealed to His people through the prophet Isaiah: “Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance” ([Isa. 55:2](#)).

If something is missing in your life, remember that God is the only One who can fully and abundantly satisfy you. Let Him complete the picture of your life.

*Meditate:* The God-shaped void within our heart Cannot be filled by treasure; It’s only God who satisfies In ways we cannot measure.

*Aphorism:* There’s a longing in every heart that only Jesus can satisfy.

**\*May02(Wednesday),2012**{ [1 Chron. 29:10~13](#) }Key: All that is in heaven and in earth is Yours.([1 Chronicles 29:11](#))“**Recession Proof**”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 12~13](#); [Luke 22:1~20](#)

In his sermon titled “What Is the Recession For?” pastor John Piper suggests that when the economy plummets, God has His own purposes. Some of them might be:

1. To expose hidden sin and so bring us to repentance and cleansing.
2. To wake us up to the constant and desperate condition of the developing world, where there is always and only recession of the worst kind.
3. To relocate the roots of our joy in His grace rather than in our goods, in His mercy rather than in our money, in His worth rather than in our wealth.
4. To advance His saving mission in the world—the spread of the gospel and the growth of His church—precisely at a time when human resources are least able to support it.
5. To bring His church to care for its hurting members and to grow in the gift of love.

What else does God want to teach us in difficult times? That nothing is impossible with Him ([Luke 1:37](#)). That He who owns “the cattle on a thousand hills” ([Ps. 50:10](#)) is not limited by an economic downturn. That God hasn’t placed a moratorium on the Great Commission nor abandoned us ([Matt. 28:20](#)). Let’s not put our hopes on worldly prosperity, but on the One who owns it all!

*Meditate:* When difficulties come our way, God uses them to show That when we put our trust in Him His goodness we will know.

*Aphorism:*When all you have is God, you have all you need.

**\*May03(Thursday),2012**{ [Proverbs 15:1~7](#) }Key: If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. ([James 1:26](#))“**Words—Do They Matter?**”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 14~15](#); [Luke 22:21~46](#)

I heard a teenager from a Christian family declare, “My mom doesn’t think swear words are bad.” He then indicated which words she found acceptable—words that have long been considered inappropriate.

Society’s standard of language has declined in recent years, but we don’t have to decline with it. As we strive to be “very careful . . . how [we] live” ([Eph. 5:15](#) niv), we should think about how to honor God with our words.

We please the Lord with our tongue when we show discernment. “He who restrains his lips is wise,” [Proverbs 10:19](#) reminds us. When we do speak, we are to filter the words that escape our lips: “Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles” (21:23).

It is important to use kind, positive words—even to address tough subjects. “A harsh word stirs up anger,” but “the tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly” ([Prov. 15:1~2](#)).

Finally, avoid words that reflect poorly on who we are as God’s children. Paul’s admonition to “let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth” ([Eph. 4:29](#)) sets a strong standard for the righteous use of words.

To honor God in each part of life, use words that are pleasing and acceptable to a holy God.

*Meditate:*The tongue can be a blessing And the tongue can be a curse; Say, friend, how are you using yours: For better or for worse?

*Aphorism:*What we say reveals who we are.

**\*May04(Friday),2012**{ [Ephesians 3:14~21](#) }Key: That you, being rooted and grounded in

love, may be able to comprehend . . . the love of Christ which passes knowledge. ([Ephesians 3:17~19](#))“**God’s Devotion**”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 16~18](#); [Luke 22:47~71](#)

In 1826, the British author Thomas Carlyle married Jane Welsh, who also was an accomplished writer. She dedicated herself to his success and served him wholeheartedly.

Because of a stomach ailment and a nervous disorder, he had a rather ornery temperament. So she made special meals for him and tried to keep the house as quiet as possible so he could do his writing.

Thomas didn’t often recognize Jane’s helpful spirit nor did he spend much time with her. However, he wrote this about her to his mother: “I may say in my heart that she . . . loves me with a devotedness which is a mystery to me how I have ever deserved. She . . . looks with such soft cheerfulness into my gloomy countenance, that new hope passed into me every time I met her eye.”

We too have Someone who loves us with a devotedness that is a mystery how we as sinners ever deserved it! He is God the Father, “who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all” ([Rom. 8:32](#)). His love is wide, long, deep, and high and exceeds our knowledge ([Eph. 3:18~19](#)).

Understanding and appreciating God’s love is so vital that Paul prayed for the Ephesians to be “rooted and grounded” in it (v.17). May that be our experience as well.

*Meditate:* I can always count on God, my heavenly Father, For He changes not; He always is the same; Yesterday, today, forever, He is faithful, And I know He loves me, praise His holy name.

*Aphorism:* There is no greater joy than to know God loves you.

\***May05(Saturday),2012**{[Genesis 13:9~13](#)}Key: Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan.([Genesis 13:11](#))“**Letting God Choose**”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 19~20](#); [Luke 23:1~25](#)

We may have secret longings too deep to utter to others—perhaps a desire for marriage, or a work or ministry we’d like to perform, or a special place to serve. We must put each desire in God’s hands and pray, “Lord, You must choose for me. I will not choose for myself.”

[Genesis 13:10~11](#) tells us that Lot made his own choice about a desire he had. He “lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere . . . like the garden of the Lord . . . Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan.”

The plain of Jordan, with its rich soil and copious water supply, looked best to Lot. But the land was polluted with wickedness (v.13). Pastor Ray Stedman wrote that “Lot, presuming to run his own life, ‘chose for himself,’ and, deceived by what he saw, stumbled blindly into heartache and judgment. Abram, on the other hand, was content to let God choose for him. . . . Abram saw it in its true light.” Lot chose for himself and lost everything—his family, his fortune, his favor with man.

It is always the best course for us to let God choose and to follow His direction, knowing as we do that all our heavenly Father’s choices are prompted by infinite wisdom and love.

*Meditate:* Long ago I made my life’s decision To serve the Lord and have Him choose my way; And when I’ve felt uncertain at a crossroad, He’s never failed to lead me day by day.

*Aphorism:* Contentment comes when we want God’s will more than our own way.

\***May06(Sunday),2012**{[Psalm 34:4~18](#)}Key: This poor man cried out, and the Lord

heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. ([Psalm 34:6](#))“**God Has Time For You**”Bible In One Year: [1 Kings 21~22; Luke 23:26~56](#)

Historian Cassius Dio recorded a revealing event from the life of Hadrian, the Roman Emperor from ad 117~138: “Once, when a woman made a request of [Hadrian] as he passed by on a journey, he at first said to her, ‘I haven’t time,’ but afterwards, when she cried out, ‘Cease, then, being emperor,’ he turned about and granted her a hearing.”

How often we say or hear, “Not now, I’m busy” or “I’m sorry, but I just don’t have time.” Yet, our heavenly Father, the Master and Creator of everything, always has time for us. The psalmist wrote: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. . . . The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles” ([Ps. 34:15~17](#)).

God is not like the emperor or a busy executive who tries to avoid interruption. Instead, the Father’s joy is to listen and respond to His children. “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit” (v.18).

Hadrian’s afterthought was, “I must take time for my subjects.” God’s first thought is, “I always have time for those who come to Me.” Whenever we need to talk, the Lord is ready to listen.

*Meditate:* I love to dwell upon the thought That Jesus cares for me; It matters not what life may bring—He loves me tenderly.

*Aphorism:* God is never too busy to listen to His children.