

Bible study for this week 7/30/12~8/05/12

***July 30 (Monday), 2012** { [Genesis 1:20~28; 2:15](#) } Key: The waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ([Genesis 1:10](#)) “Garbage Island” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 51–53 & Romans 2](#)

The other day I ran across a troubling report about people who think it is acceptable to use the ocean as a giant garbage dump. Here is an excerpt: “If you should see this amazing floating pile of plastic in the Pacific Ocean, it’s called ‘The Great Pacific Garbage Patch.’ It features three million tons of plastic debris floating in an area larger than Texas. An eye-popping 46,000 pieces of plastic float on every square mile of ocean!” Other sources estimate the amount of garbage is even bigger. Plastic is especially bad because it does not dissolve.

During our sojourn on earth, we have been charged, like Adam, with taking care of the earth and its creatures that God has given us. [Genesis 2:15](#) says, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” God delights in what He has made and this extends to the sea and all that live in it (1:10,20~21).

This world should remind us of the greatness of our Creator and serve as a springboard of praise to Him. Indifferently using it as a garbage dump mars its beauty and threatens the creatures that live here. Showing respect and caring for the land, the ocean, and the air is our duty as believers in Christ.

Meditate: Natural world that God makes, can't be acted recklessly wantonly by somebody, bears and manages the earth responsibility, should do one's duty to have nothing to be ashamed of to God .

Aphorism: Caring for God’s creation is the believer’s duty.

***July 31 (Tuesday), 2012** { [John 20:19~29](#) } Key: Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ([John 20:28](#)) “My Lord” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 54–56 & Romans 3](#)

On the day of His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and showed them His hands and feet. We are told that at first they could not believe for joy—it appeared too wonderful to be true ([Luke 24:40~41](#)). Thomas was not with the disciples, but he also had trouble believing until he saw for himself. When Jesus appeared to Thomas and told him to put his fingers in the nail holes and his hand in His side, Thomas cried, “My Lord and my God!” ([John 20:28](#)).

Later, as Paul told the Philippians of his own suffering, he also declared Jesus as Lord. He testified that he had come to the place where he considered all his experiences as loss “for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord” ([Phil. 3:8](#)).

You and I have never seen Jesus calm a storm or raise someone from the dead. We haven’t sat at His feet on a Galilean hillside and heard Him teach. But through eyes of faith we have been spiritually healed by His death on our behalf. Thus we can join Thomas and Paul and countless others in acknowledging Jesus as our Lord.

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” ([John 20:29](#)). When we believe, we too can call Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

Meditate: See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down; Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Aphorism: Though we cannot see Him with our eyes, we can believe with our heart—He is Lord!

***August 01 (Wednesday), 2012** { [Matthew 6:1~4](#) } Key: When you do a charitable deed,

do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ([Matthew 6:3](#)) “**The Unknown Giver**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 57~59; Romans 4](#)

I don't know about you, but I tend to enjoy getting credit when I do stuff for others. And I don't think I'm alone in appreciating thank you cards and words of gratitude.

I also know, however, that there's something to be said for anonymity. This must be a good way to give, because Jesus endorsed it.

That's why I was impressed with a gift that arrived anonymously on our front porch one day. We had been out of town; and when we returned, there stood several flower pots—each holding a blooming sunflower. We knew the reason—they were left on our doorstep on the birthday of our late daughter, Melissa, who loved sunflowers. Someone was telling us, “We remember Mell.” By giving anonymously, they focused completely on our family rather than on themselves.

Imagine a world in which we all gave generously and selflessly. Jesus mentioned secret giving in Matthew 6. He said, “When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret” (vv.3~4).

Realistically, we can't always give anonymously. But our giving should always be marked with the same spirit of selfless humility and God-directed charity.

Meditate: Give as 'twas given to you in your need, Love as the Master loved you; Be to the helpless a helper indeed Unto your mission be true.

Aphorism: Self-sacrifice is the true measure of our giving.

***August 02(Thursday),2012**{ [Matthew 6:5~8](#)} Key: Do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ([Matthew 6:8](#)) “**He Already Knows**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 60~62; Romans 5](#)

A friend who is a commercial pilot told me about a flight in which he encountered a serious mechanical issue—a problem with dangerous implications. When the situation occurred, the warning lights in the cockpit informed him of the problem and he monitored it all the way to the destination, ultimately landing safely.

Once on the ground, the pilot immediately went to the maintenance staff and reported it. To his surprise, the mechanics responded, “We already know about the problem and are ready to fix it. When you got the cockpit warning, we automatically got an electronic warning as well.”

As he shared that incident, I couldn't help but compare it to Jesus' words about our heavenly Father: “Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him” ([Matt. 6:8](#)). He said this in contrast to people who believe that they must “use vain repetitions . . . For they think that they will be heard for their many words” (v.7). Jesus presupposes God's knowledge of and concern for His children.

Even though God knows our needs, He still wants us to share our hearts with Him. He stands ready to hear our prayer and to repair our brokenness by His grace.

Meditate : Although God knows our every need, His work He wants to share; He takes us into partnership By calling us to prayer.

Aphorism: Prayer is the voice of faith, trusting that God knows and cares.

***August 03(Friday),2012**{ [Romans 6:14~23](#)} Key: Having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. ([Romans 6:18](#)) “**The Sin Virus**” Bible In One Year: [Psalms 63~65; Romans 6](#)

The H1N1 pandemic focused the world's attention on viruses. Viruses are living organisms that need a host to survive and wreak their havoc. In some cases, a virus can be

present for many years before the host is even aware of it. During that time, the virus can inflict widespread and untold damage. Take it away from the host, and it remains dormant or dies.

In a similar way, sin needs a host to stay alive. By themselves, sins such as pride, greed, anger, and selfishness are mere words. But when sin overpowers a human host, it works to destroy it for as long as the host is alive.

Thankfully, because of Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross, Christians have been positionally "set free from sin" ([Rom. 6:18](#)). Even though we still sin, the Holy Spirit who lives in us helps us to resist that "sin virus," the lust of the flesh ([Gal. 5:16](#)). The apostle John tells us: "Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because God's life is in them" ([1 John 3:9 NLT](#)). Now we walk in dependence upon the Spirit, and one day we will stand "faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" ([Jude 24](#)).

Isn't that a great comfort for you as you step out today into a world infected by the "virus" of sin?

Meditate: The Great Physician holds the cure That kills the virus of our sin; It's by His own atoning blood That we're made whole and pure within.

Aphorism: Sin is the disease, Christ is the cure.

***August 04(Saturday),2012{ [Psalm 63](#) }Key:** O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. ([Psalm 63:1](#)) "**Out Of Orbit**" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 66~67; Romans 7](#)

I still find it amazing that we can launch probes into deep space. But think of how wasteful it would be if on the way to Mars our probe got caught in the gravitational pull of a lesser, insignificant object. Beware! That might be happening in our lives.

When Jesus called His disciples to follow Him, He meant for them to begin a journey to passionately pursue Him. Followers of Christ have been launched into a trajectory that is defined by drawing closer and closer to Him. But in the process, we are often distracted and succumb to the gravitational pull of lesser, alluring things. When that happens, we cease our pursuit of Him and go into orbit around stuff that in the end is empty and unsatisfying.

Psalm 63 is the cure for lives stuck in orbit. David pursued God, knowing that He alone could satisfy his inner longings because His "lovingkindness is better than life" (v.3). The joy of God's presence consumed every moment: "When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches" (v.6). David understood that true joy and purpose come not in admiring God from a safe distance, but from chasing hard after Him.

Let's get back on track and pursue an increasingly closer walk with God!

Meditate: To walk in fellowship with Christ And sense His love so deep and true Brings to the soul its highest joy As nothing in this world can do.

Aphorism: The closer you walk with God, the less room for anything to come between.

***August 05(Sunday),2012{ [James 1:12~18](#) }Key:** Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ([James 1:14](#)) "**The Devil Made Me Do It**" Bible In One Year: [Psalms 68~69; Romans 8:1~21](#)

In March 2009, a 62-year-old woman was charged with stealing more than \$73,000 from her church in the state of Washington. When the detectives interrogated her, she told them: "Satan had a big part in the theft." It sounds like she was saying that the devil made her do it.

Satan may have played a role in her choices, but she has some faulty thinking about temptation and sin. The devil tempts believers, but he doesn't *make* us sin. James tells us that God isn't to blame either: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone" ([James 1:13](#)). He is good and holy.

So who is to blame for our sin? James says, "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed" (v.14). Just as a fisherman uses bait to lure his prey, so our own evil, unchecked desires lead to giving in to temptation and sin.

When we disobey God by sinning, let's not shift the blame or justify our actions with the faulty "the devil made me do it" theology. Instead, let's take full responsibility for our actions, confess our sins to a gracious and forgiving Father, and pursue right living again.

Meditate: It's wise to flee when tempted—A fool is one who'd stay; For those who toy with evil Soon learn it doesn't pay.

Aphorism: When we sin, the blame lies within.