The Weekly Word
June 2-8, 2014

The days are longer and the sun is warmer. Summer is almost here. I hope the Bible is on your summer reading list. Happy reading…

Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link… http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/.

Monday, June 2: 2Samuel 7– To go deeper with the Lord…

How much of David's life was focused on love and care for the Lord!

In the last chapter we saw that David's desire, once he became king, was to bring the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem. Now today he dreams of building a permanent temple for the ark. And listen to his motivation, *"Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent"* (2).

David wanted the best for the Lord. David honored the Lord.

David certainly wasn't perfect, but his love for the Lord was deep and real and this inspires me.

David inspires me to go deeper, and to not hold back in my love and devotion to the Lord.

Thank you, David, for living for God and loving God as you did. Lord, help me to aspire to all the good traits of David,,,,love, devotion, passion for You.

Lord, that I would be wholly Yours… this is my prayer, through Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Tuesday, June 3: 2Samuel 8– Living <u>with</u> and <u>for</u> the Lord…

The 'give and take' between David and the Lord fascinated me. Yes, David was successful. It seems everything that he put his hand to, every battle he faced, turned out well. God was certainly with him and verse 14 confirms this. *The LORD gave David victory wherever he went.*

But what spoke to me was how careful David was to remember that the Lord was the one giving him victory so he constantly dedicated his victory spoils to the Lord. *King David dedicated these articles to the LORD, as he had done with the silver and gold from all the nations he had subdued…* (11).

David truly lived with and for the Lord!

With the Lord… David seems to maintain a constant connection with God.

For the Lord… David's heart delighted in giving God the glory.

Living with and for the Lord…

Oh, God, may that be a comment that is said when my life draws to a close! With and for You, Jesus. With and for You, Father. With and for You, Spirit… I pray that this is how I live… with and for You. Amen.

Wednesday, June 4: 2Samuel 9– Honoring a friend who died…

Friendship is a powerful gift. Friends who are there through thick and thin are a true gift. If we have one or two in our lifetime, we are rich.

David had one in Jonathan, son of Saul. Jonathan died at too young an age.

After establishing his kingship, this chapter chronicles how David honors the life, legacy and friendship of Jonathan. David surely went above and beyond.

Seeking out any living relatives, David restored Jonathans only son to his inheritance. Remember this is the grandson of the former king who tried on multiple occasions to kill David! And even more so, David had Jonathan's son move to Jerusalem where David could care for him. David treated Mephibosheth as a son.

What honor!

This caused me to think about how I honor friends who have died or who have loved ones die.

I'm generally a 'phone call or sympathy card' guy… I wonder if I should do more?

Things to ponder…

Lord, thank You for the men and women who, over the course of my life, have been my friends. They have blessed me, poured into me and those I am thinking about right now have caused me to become a better person. Thank You, Lord, especially for those who are brothers and sisters in the Lord, because their lives have helped me live more faithfully to You.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Thursday, June 5: 2Samuel 10– Imperfect yet loved by God…

This was a difficult chapter for me in which to gain a devotional moment.. No mention of God. A battle over honor. Mistrust through and through. Not the stuff of inspiration.

And, yet, here it is in Scripture, a chapter about one of the most revered figures of the Old Testament, King David.

We are a motley crew, we humans that is. We can be suspicious of honorable things. We can fight at the drop of a hat. Foot soldiers are pawns often killed in battles where they know nothing about the big picture.

And God still loves us. God made and set in motion a plan to save us. And God lives in and through us when we place our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and God.

I sit here today amazed at God's love for me, imperfect as I am… and God's love for us humans…..where our imperfections rub each other the wrong way and we seem to create more wrongs when our individual wrongs mix.

Forgive me, Lord. Forgive us, Lord. And thank You for never ceasing to love. Through Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Friday, June 6: 2Samuel 11– Nobody is Perfect…

Bathsheba is one of the names many people know from the OT. David had an illicit one-night-stand and she became pregnant. To cover up the affair, David gives orders so that her husband is killed in battle. Ugh! This is a dark moment in David's life.

Oh, the ways we try to wriggle out of trouble. Often our wriggling only creates more trouble!

David was a great man but like all of us, he had his flaws and he committed his sins. I don't write this to excuse David. I note it because I recognize that I, too, have my flaws and I, too, commit my own sins.

Thanks be to Jesus that He has offered God payment for my sins… His death on the cross. This gift of Jesus is not 'a get out of jail free card' that I can play whenever I want, meaning I am free to sin whenever I want. Heavens, 'NO'. But it is a gift that I can lean on when sin gets the upper hand in my life and I do sin!

Thank You, Jesus, for this indescribable gift… Amen.

Saturday, June 7: 2Samuel 12– Consequences…

After David sinned, God sent the prophet to David. In a surprise moment the prophet confronts David with his sin, *"You are the man!…"* (7). David comes clean, repents and God forgives him. BUT, and this as I see it is an important BUT, consequences of the sin still occur.

This I find is often the case. God forgives our sins, other people sometimes forgive our sins, but the earthly consequences of the sin still exist.

Felons who break the law are punished under the law. Their sins may have been forgiven but they have a debt to society that still must be reckoned. The thief on the cross repented of his sin and was granted paradise by Jesus, but he still died on the cross (Luke 23:43).

This incident reminds me that when I sin there are earthly consequences. Even though when I confess my sins to the Lord, He absolutely and lovingly forgives my sins and cleanses me from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9).

Think about this as you live your Saturday and as you prepare for worship tomorrow.

Lord, help me be responsible for the things I do that are wrong. Thank You for forgiving me but remind me that where or when possible, I need to own my wrong and face whatever consequences result from it. May I face my consequences with the character of Jesus…

In Your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Sunday, June 8, 2014, Sunday Worship

If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list… I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.

If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at office@pcogonline.org.

Click here for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.