

**FRIDAY, June 4, 2010:**

Job 28:12 *“But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?”*

I love the way Howard Nemerov in his short story, “The Outage”, describes how, in the old days, truth was passed on to the next generation...

*“In families that cared for customary ways, the telling of the story was assigned to the oldest man present – grandpa it might be, or great-uncle – with only his wife allowed to correct him or bring him back if he strayed; his wife, or else, if he were widowed, one of the other old women. He would begin after the traditional holiday dinner, at the time of drawing of curtains and lighting of lamps, with the families arrayed around him. The middle generation, the fathers and mothers and uncles and aunts, some of whom could remember and some of whom only thought they remembered, were expected to contribute to the recital only their choral assent at the high moments; while the children – well, the children had to ask questions, and on this occasion their questions would be received with good humor, though not invariably answered. In return, they shared in the convention by pretending to be hearing the story for the first time, though only the youngest of them really were.”*

Ah, my dear friend, I believe if Jesus could gather us around today and share the old, old story once again, the answer to Job’s question would remain the same – **“Wisdom and understanding can only be found in knowing God.”**

Let us make God our paramount, passionate pursuit, not lesser things.  
**SCRIPTURE: Philipians 3:8**

**SATURDAY, June 5, 2010:**

Job 28:20 *“From where then does wisdom come? And where is the place of understanding?”*

Some questions are so important that they’re worth asking twice.

Chapter 28 explains where wisdom and understanding cannot be found.

They cannot be found in man’s ingenuity and technology (28:1-11) and they can’t be found in man’s affluence (28:13-19).

We want so badly to be able to say that anything can be done (technology) and anything can be bought (affluence), but the truth of the matter is - they cannot.

Let me remind you again, **only in God** – the one and only God revealed in the Bible – can you find what you are longing for. Nothing else can satisfy. You can’t invent an “i-Something” that will fix you. You can’t swipe a card that has a large enough credit line to purchase what you really need. Only in God will you find what you really are searching for.

Perhaps you have forgotten that today. You are pressing after other things and all the time Jesus is knocking at your heart’s door and saying “Let me back into your life.”

**SCRIPTURE: Revelation 3:20**



**Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional**

*For the week of May 30, 2010*

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

*What I am thankful for this week:*

MONDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY: \_\_\_\_\_



**MONDAY, May 31, 2010:**

Job 25:5-6 *"If even the moon does not shine, and the stars are not pure in His sight, how much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a worm?"*

I am writing this devotional today in a Romanian town called Oradea. Earlier today, I had the privilege of being part of a ceremony where we received several "Roma" churches into the Church of God. The Romani people, sometimes known as gypsies, have been and are to this day a highly persecuted people.

For example, here in Romania they are often subjected to persecution and segregation. When the leader of the Roma churches made his speech, he offered a gift to our Assistant General Overseer (Tim Hill) who was here to represent the Church of God. The gift was a statue of Simon of Cyrene helping Jesus carry his cross. The brother that was speaking, shared that we were like Simon of Cyrene, come over to Romania to help them carry the cross they have to bear.

His speech touched my heart and made me proud to be a part of the Church of God and to have a part in helping these dear people.

Today's verse offers just the opposite answer to those carrying a heavy cross. Job's friend Bildad puts God up on such a high plane that there is no way we could ever encounter Him. Many people are like Bildad. They believe in God but they have no relationship with Him.

My dear reader, never doubt that God is vastly superior to you; He is high and lifted up, above all nature, and all people. However, He is also a loving God who comes to us in our hour of need. That is what Jesus represents – God come to earth in order to carry our cross.

God is not a dead idol on a pedestal; He is a living God who is alive and at work in helping his dearly loved children. Call on Him, lean on Him, believe in Him, He will not let you down!

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46:1**

**TUESDAY, June 1, 2010:**

Job 26:2 *"How have you helped him who is without power? How have you saved the arm that has no strength?"*

Everyone loves a winner. When things are going well friends abound. But when tough times come, when demotions come, when income has dried up and influence is nil, that is when you learn who your real friends are and who the real Christians are.

Let me ask you, "Who do you know that has fallen on hard times?"

I am thinking of the tragic earthquake in Haiti. At first, everyone jumped on board to help, but soon the headlines changed, life went on and our minds got distracted by other things.

But today's verse reminds us that the noble in heart do not forget. They notice the downcast around them and do something. They reach out and keep on reaching out.

Maybe today's devotional is a reminder to you that it's time to help that person you've been meaning to help.

**SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 4:10**

**WEDNESDAY, June 2, 2010:**

Job 26:10 *"He drew a circular horizon on the face of the waters, at the boundary of light and darkness."*

One of the side issues that I really find fascinating about the book of Job is the scientific knowledge that it contains.

Today's verse is an example (see 26:7-8 also). It shows that the ancients had an understanding that the earth was round. Having just come back from a trans-Atlantic flight and seeing the circular horizon and the distant boundary of light fading into darkness makes this verse even more vivid to me.

Many times the impression is given that the Bible is a book of myths and ancient traditions that have no relevance in our modern world. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Bible never contradicts science and its timeless truths are completely reliable for every generation.

Bottom line, never be ashamed of your faith. You are putting your hope in something/Someone that will not let you down.

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 33:4**

**THURSDAY, June 3, 2010:**

Job 27:5 *"Far be it from me that I should say you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me."*

On my recent flight back from Budapest, I had a two-hour delay. During that time, a businessman jabbered on his mobile phone with different clients the entire time. As would have it, he sat right across from me on the plane and even there right up to the last minute he kept talking. When we arrived in Charlotte, he immediately picked right up where he last left off.

This is one of my pet peeves – people forcing everyone else to be a part of their conversations on their mobile phone. I kept my mouth shut about it until that last call and that was when I decided I had had enough. When he signed off I tapped him on the shoulder and asked him, "Can I give you my address so that you can send me some of your commissions since I've been forced to sit in your 'office' for the last few hours." His eyes got big but he didn't say anything, and most importantly, he didn't make any more calls.

Now, I'm not sure that was the best thing to do / but I'm stubborn like that and being stubborn can get you in trouble. However, there are times that being stubborn is good. Job gives us one of those rare examples \ when your integrity is under attack. Most battles aren't really worth fighting – like confronting jabbering mobile phone talkers. However, one of the most precious things you have is your good name / protect it and defend it faithfully.

**SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 22:1**