

## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

April 15, 2016

- ✓ **Deuteronomy 29:1-29.** Moses appeals for obedience.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 7:8-16.** Godly sorrow vs. worldly sorrow.
- ✓ **Psalms 42:1-43:5.** Longing for God as a deer longs for the water brooks.

### COMMENTARY:

**Deuteronomy 29:1-29.** After Moses reminds the Israelites of the Lord’s faithfulness in juxtaposition to their unfaithfulness (2-8), and gives the essence of the covenant (9-15), he spends the rest of the chapter on curses for disobedience. The divine devastation would be so complete that other nations would ask why Israel’s God let it happen (24). Of course, the Lord let it happen because He is true to His Word, which predicted such punishment for disobedience. God’s faithfulness is complete both in blessings for obedience and as well as in discipline for disobedience. The same God who gave them clothes that would not wear out and manna from Heaven is the same God who disciplined the unbelieving exodus generation with the sin unto death. All of God’s benefits demand obedience and fidelity to the Lord. The Israelites showed their true hearts by false worship mentioned in verse 16-21. This attitude of worship and love for false gods (like the problem with Mammonism in Matthew 6:24) did not crop up overnight. Their idolatrous attitude came from evil *habitation* that has been learned and persisted with consistently over a period of time. No one who is developing his love relationship with the Lord is going to fall for the false gods of this world, let alone worship them. With every choice man habituates in his life virtue or vice. It is unfortunate that the Israelites ended up so abominable as to be compared to pagans of Sodom and Gomorrah (23). What a waste. What a disaster. What an example for us all to redouble our efforts to be diligent about keeping the goodness of God before us so as to be led astray by lesser corruptible goods.

**2 Corinthians 7:8-16.** Confrontation is not easy for any of us. We tend to shrink from it. Paul, however, confronted the Corinthians directly, despite how much he stood to lose. The stakes were especially high for Paul because it was his apostolic authority that was challenged. The Corinthians reacted to his rebuke with “godly sorrow,” just as God had intended (“grieved according to God”). Paul contrasts this godly sorrow with worldly sorrow. Worldly sorry is self-oriented and breeds self-destructive resentment and bitterness that eats away at a person. Godly sorrow, on the other hand, brings true repentance with respect to God. This godly repentance (*metanoia*) denotes not just a change of mind about something, but a reorientation of the whole person as illustrated in its use of the churches of Revelation 2-3. An illustration of the difference between godly and worldly sorrow can be seen in Peter and Judas. Peter’s repentance was a godly sorrow with respect to denying the Lord three times. It was a total reorientation in embracing the Lord and His grace for restoration. Judas’ sorrow, however, was inward, earthly, and destructive leading to suicide. Had Judas been open to the grace of God, his sorrow certainly could have been godly, leading to repentance and deliverance of his very soul by accepting the grace and forgiveness of the Lord.

**Psalm 42:1-43:5.** Psalm 42-43 are actually one psalm in the original Hebrew. Note the psalmist's intense seeking and deep longing for the Lord. In the first verse he tells us that as the deer pants for water brooks, so his soul pants for God. What a powerful illustration of his deep desire for God's presence. Note his love to go with fellow believers to the House of God in verse 4. Observe how he talks to himself in verse 11 as he asks himself why he is so depressed during his trials. He quickly exhorts himself to hope in God as his enemies were "getting to him." We should do the same anytime we are feeling a bit down. In such times, we need to remind ourselves that our hope is not in ourselves or in any created thing. Our hope is in the Lord who has created us and placed us in His family forever, and we are headed for a future far beyond our wildest expectations. As far as enemies, instead of worrying about them, we should follow the psalmist example and focus on our second person relationship with the Lord, which is best actualized by prayer (43:1-2).

**Romans 11:36** For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don