

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

April 2, 2016

- ✓ Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29 – A new beginning; conquest of the Transjordan.
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 1:12-16 – Corinthian criticism of Paul.
- ✓ Psalm 31:10-24 – Prayer for deliverance.

REFLECTIONS:

Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29. This section covers the journey to and conquest of the Transjordan. In spite of the 40-year judgment of the ungrateful and rebellious previous generation, God had not given up on His people. He was still guiding the nation through His prophet Moses and had not abandoned His plan to give them the land of Canaan.

Instead of entering the promised land directly from the wilderness as they have done almost forty years ago, the Israelites must now approach it from the east. This route requires them to pass five states which run the length of Transjordan: Edom, Moab, Ammon, and the Amorite kingdoms of Sihon and Og. God exhorts Israel not to fear Og (3:2), an exhortation made to the previous generation concerning the Amorites. Moreover, Moses describes the defeated cities of Og as “fortified with high walls, gates, and bars” and Og himself as a giant (3:5, 11), which mirrors what the Israelites previously believed about the Amorites and their cities (1:28). God allows Moses to lead the conquest of the Transjordan, which encourages him to hope that God might relent from His decision to bar him from the promised land. So, Moses passionately prays to God to let him enter, “But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: `Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter” (Deut. 3:26). However, God does temper the “severity” of His decree by allowing Moses to see the land (3:27). Although it is common in Christianity to think that because God is the God of all grace that no matter what one does in life that God will always restore promised blessings, this is false. Many believers waste much of their lives chasing the world with the idea in the back of their minds that they can always turn it around and *then* enter into God’s blessings—and even somehow even be in a better position to appreciate God’s grace all the more. This view is not only false, it is blasphemous. Wasted opportunities are wasted forever, and while God’s grace is always there, it does not automatically guarantee the blessings or the blessedness, which the believer would otherwise have had to enjoy. Right now counts forever!



2 Corinthians 1:12-16. In this section Paul deals with believers in the church who criticize him.

We have all faced criticism at one time or another. Pastors and leaders in particular are easy

targets in the ministry. I recall many criticisms leveled

against my former pastors. It has been my experience that

the ones who complain the most are the one who are not

doing much of anything in the way of a ministry for

fellow believers or the pastor. Anyone can complain,

especially in our consumer driven culture where believers

expect to be served in a church in the manner he wishes.

However, it was no different in the first century. The

Pharisees and scribes were constantly criticizing Jesus.

Even the church that James wrote to had to be told to stop

their grumbling and complaining (James 5:9). What did

the Corinthians complain about with reference to Paul?

For one, that he was too hard to understand (1:12-14). It

has been my experience that those who complain because

Bible class is too difficult are not really interested in

learning anyway— they also complain about repetition. Usually they just want to be catered to

by God and want a message that somehow makes that work, makes their life better—it really is

all about them. The problem with those kind of believers is that they tend to dumb down

Christianity as pastors often give into that kind of attitude to keep them happy (and stupid!

regarding the true nature of God, man, and the Christian life). In closing I will have to say that I

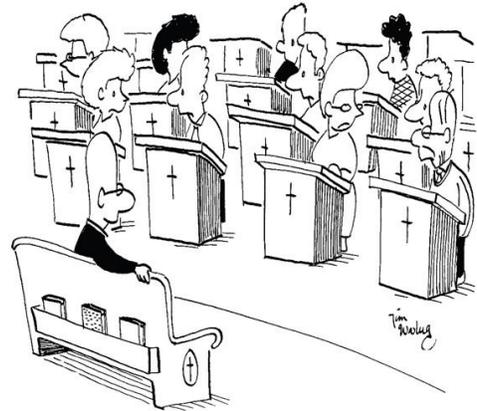
have been thanked, encouraged, and supported *far more* than criticized by the believers of FBC. I

also recognize that when I have had my feelings hurt by attacks, it is only because of my

wounded pride—and pride is something I have far too much of anyway. When we are criticized,

let us all take a look at ourselves and see what good we can gain even in the face of evil and

unjust criticism—is that not what Jesus and Paul did?



© 2009 Tim Walburg. More at LeadershipJournal.net/Cartoons

**Pastor Roger, sick of
the criticism, turned the tables.**

Psalm 31:10-24. David prays to the Lord in time of trouble. He places himself in the Lord's

hands to save him (3:15). Following this, David praises the

Lord for His protection of the faithful, and His deliverance

due to His loyal love even during times when David did not

have the best attitude (31:22). On the basis of what he had

learned, David encourages all believers to be strong in their

faith and hope in the Lord (31:23-24). It really is all about the

Lord and not us!



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don