

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
April 25, 2016

- ✓ **Joshua 14:1-15:63.** Caleb and the territories.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 11:16-23.** Paul acts like a fool to make a point.
- ✓ **Psalm 54:1-7.** Trusting God.

COMMENTS:

Joshua 14:1-15:63. Chapter 14 introduces the territories west of the Jordan. Chapter 15 describes the land of Judah. In chapter 14 we also see Caleb who is now about 85 years old as he steps before Joshua and makes his request and provides a review of his faithfulness at Kadesh Barnea. Caleb was a true man of God who displayed faith throughout his life. Because of Caleb’s leadership against the unbelieving spies and people, God singled him out for blessing and promised him a special reward (Num. 14:24; Deut. 1:36). Caleb’s testimony (Josh. 14:6–12) was simple. He had spoken on that memorable day according to his convictions. He did not minimize the problems—the giants and the fortified cities—but he magnified God. To him, God was greater than the biggest problem. Caleb had faith in *the power of God* unlike the most of his fellow Jews. They magnified the problems and thereby minimized God. But Caleb would not follow the crowd. He did not once consider sacrificing his own convictions in order to make the majority report unanimous. Instead he followed the Lord his God wholeheartedly (14:14). Could you be described as one who truly is seeking to follow the Lord fully? Why or why not?

2 Corinthians 11:16-23. Paul returns to the thought of foolish boasting expressed in 11:1 as he prepares them again for his fool’s speech. This boasting is all a fool’s jest, so repeats his second justification for his own boasting (see 11:4–6). Since the Corinthians have put up with the foolish boasting of his rivals without a problem, they should be able to endure a little boasting from their own apostle. “Many have boasted the way the world does” (“according to the flesh”), that is, their boasting accords with the world’s corrupt standards (11:18). If that is what it takes to get the Corinthians to listen, then that is what Paul will do. He joins in the game reluctantly, however, because he has been driven to it (12:11). But he makes clear in 11:17 that this is not the stuff of apostolic discourse. It is that of a “worldly man” trying to outshine his rivals, “itself a ‘foolish’ ambition.” He is not normally self-congratulatory, does not normally act according to worldly standards (10:2), and does not normally evaluate himself or others according to these standards (5:16). But he adopts his rivals’ ways to show how ultimately foolish they are. Wanting to be better than others in terms of status is foolish; wanting to show oneself better than others is even more foolish. Most of those who boast do not realize they are doing it. It is a sign of wisdom on Paul’s part that he did realize and that he saw its foolishness. Paul speaks as a fool because it will allow him to boast about himself, which is foolish, and not something that the Lord would approve. It is not boasting in the Lord (10:17) and not boastworthy. By explicitly saying that this is what he is doing, he undermines the boasting of his rivals. It shows it to be foolish and contrary to what the Lord would have them do. They are fools who engage in worldly discourse that has nothing to do with “speaking according to the Lord.”

Psalm 54:1-7. This is a confident prayer of David when he, being pursued by Saul, was betrayed by “the Ziphites” (cf. 1 Sam. 23:19). Though David was being hotly pursued by ungodly men who sought his life, he confidently trusted in the Lord’s abilities for complete deliverance. We see David’s confident assertion of his trust in God. He declared that God is his Helper and Sustainer. This led him to pray that God would judge the evil men who slandered him. In full confidence that God had heard his prayer and would deliver him from all the troubles brought on by his foes, David promised to praise God with a freewill offering. This refers to the fellowship offerings (Lev. 3; 7) that accompanied and expressed praises for deliverance. They were offered voluntarily by godly believers.

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

Pastor Don