

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

April 3, 2016

- ✓ Deuteronomy 4:1-49 – Exhortations to obey the Law and reject idolatry.
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 1:17-24– God’s sufficiency.
- ✓ Psalm 32:1-11 – Divine chastening and forgiveness.

REFLECTIONS:

Deuteronomy 4:1-49. Israel is exhorted not to add or subtract from the Law, that is, the Word of God. This has always been a problem with the people of God. We must be very diligent about not tampering with the Word of God to accommodate our willful and weak human fallen nature. This was the problem with the Pharisees, Sadducees, as well as every denomination that has ever existed. I have spoken at great lengths how our own doctrinal movement got so many things wrong because of adding many false concepts to the Word of God regarding God, man, creation,

love, the nature of reality, the nature of language, the nature of evil, the nature of suffering, and the nature of the spiritual life. I will not repeat my diatribe at this point. The important thing is that we must all continue to advance in the Total Truth regardless of anything in life. We must because we must pursue God. However, since we cannot see God directly, we must see Him through the mediation of His Word. In a sense, God really is in His Word and the more accurate we study the Scriptures the more accurate we can be about God, which brings us the ability to love Him as

He is instead of what we want Him to be. God gave the Scriptures to the Israelites to enable them to possess a full life with Him. They were to be careful to live according to the Law and to teach their children so their children would not become **idolaters** along with the rest of the world (4:9). Of course, all children have free will and will have to choose for themselves to follow the Lord or follow the world. Many parents are broken hearted because after faithfully instilling in the Word of God in their children almost from birth, the children end up departing from the Lord and His plan for their lives. Some parents can’t even talk about God’s grace and the things of God to their grown children without causing tension and strife. One source of comfort is to know that salvation is a free gift that cannot be lost. Because of eternal security—even for those who have departed from the Lord—all such godly parents, who so long to talk with their grown children about the things of the Lord, will one day walk the streets of the New Earth with their children and be able to talk about the Lord and the things of God once again. What a joy it will be to be able to talk about the things that really matter—those eternal truths of God and His marvelous matchless grace! It really is only a matter of time and not much time at that before that is a reality.

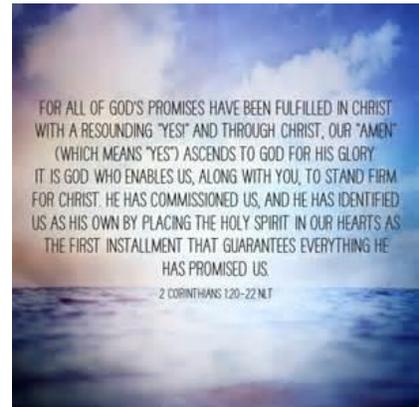
So who are we serving?

Deuteronomy 4:23-28

- stone & wood
- made by men
- putting our work in place of God
- Causes us to hate God, start serving our idols instead



2 Corinthians 1:17-24. In this section Paul defends himself against the charges of the Corinthians. Of course, for a man to defend himself today is often viewed as being a bad thing known as being defensive. While a pastor should honestly think about charges made against him, for the most part he should not let the naysayers distract him from growing the congregation in Whole Truth, Total Truth. Note how Paul goes from justifying his activity to putting his trust in the faithfulness of the Lord in verse 18 and in His word in verse 20. In fact, Paul makes it clear that it is God and God alone who enables any believer to stand and be strong until the end, blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is all of God's doing as He has sealed us with the Spirit of promise as a guarantee (1:22)



Psalm 32:1-11. David describes his experience of divine chastening and forgiveness, which is likely from his sin of adultery and murder recorded in 2 Samuel 11. He makes it clear that those who refuse submission to God will endure chastening. But for those who will confess their sins, they will be forgiven and such forgiveness brings “blessedness.” David makes the point that those who suffer for being disobedient should seek the Lord because he deals graciously with sinners. A careful reading of the psalm demonstrates that it is more about attitude than some legalistic formula. It is about submitting to the Lord rather than simply resisting stubbornly like a horse or a mule that has to be controlled (9-11). Those who live by trust in Him will experience His faithful loyal love and will be able to live in great appreciation—rather than fear—and thus sing praises to Him out of a truly grateful heart (11).



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don