

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
April 30, 2016

- ✓ **Joshua 22:10-24:33.** Joshua’s last days.
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 13:11-14.** Paul’s final appeal.
- ✓ **Psalm 60:1-12.** David appeals to God in the midst of a nation under divine discipline.

COMMENTS:

Joshua 22:10-24:33. This section can be divided into two: (1) the border dispute (22:1-34), and (2) the last days of Joshua (23:1-24:33). Observe how Joshua puts all of the commands of the Lord in the context of loving and walking with God with all of one’s heart in 22:4-5. Joshua’s passionate charge called for obedience, love, fellowship, and service. Their military obligations were fulfilled, but Joshua reminded them of their abiding spiritual commitments which were conditions for God’s continued blessing. Like an anxious parent who sees a son or daughter leave home for a place where the young person would be separated from spiritual influences, Joshua delivered his earnest charge to the departing warriors. He was perhaps fearful that their separation from the rest of the tribes might cause them to drift away from worshiping the Lord and to embrace idolatry. As a side note, one reason our country is crumbling is failure to recognize how American became great in the first place. There is a sense in which we are a product of our success, for example, our military victories have given us the peace that the younger generation now just takes for granted. Moreover, the relative stability of our past Judeo-Christian ethic has provided a basis for prosperity that the young now believes is “a given.” Joshua fears that his people will forget from whence came their incredible success. In verses 12-20 there is a threat of civil war. Due to misunderstanding of intentions, the Israelites were calling for a war against their own brothers. The Eastern tribesmen explained that they were not building an altar to idolatry; rather, it was to serve as a witness to all generations (22:26-29). It illustrates the importance of having frank and open discussions and resistance to judging the motives of others, for which we all are prone to do. In 23:1-24:28 we have the last days of Joshua and his concern for the growing complacency on the part of Israel toward the remnant of Canaanites. See how beautifully he focuses on the faithfulness of God to Israel and the importance of them being faithful to Him (23:3-8, 9-13, 14-16). Like any good teacher, he repeats himself several times to drive the point home. Like any good teacher, he also warns them of the consequences.

2 Corinthians 13:11-14. Note Paul’s final appeal. Note the promise of divine concurrence if they practice such things: God will be with them if they aim for maturity and unity. Note the Trinity in the benediction: the grace manifested by Christ; the love expressed by God the Father, and the fellowship created by the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Trinity is inextricably involved in every Christian life.

Psalm 60:1-12. This is called a didactic (teaching) psalm. The nation of Israel had been under divine discipline (1-3) and so David turns to God and asks for deliverance, using the very words of God in 6-8. David closes out this psalm with confidence in God as he acknowledges that the Lord had disciplined the nation, but that He would give them victory once again, a victory that is only possible by His help. He makes it clear that the victory or defeat belongs to God. When disaster comes, regardless of the reason, one's only hope is God. Let us redouble our efforts at making sure God, not political leaders, is our Hope—both on a personal and national level.

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

Pastor Don