

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

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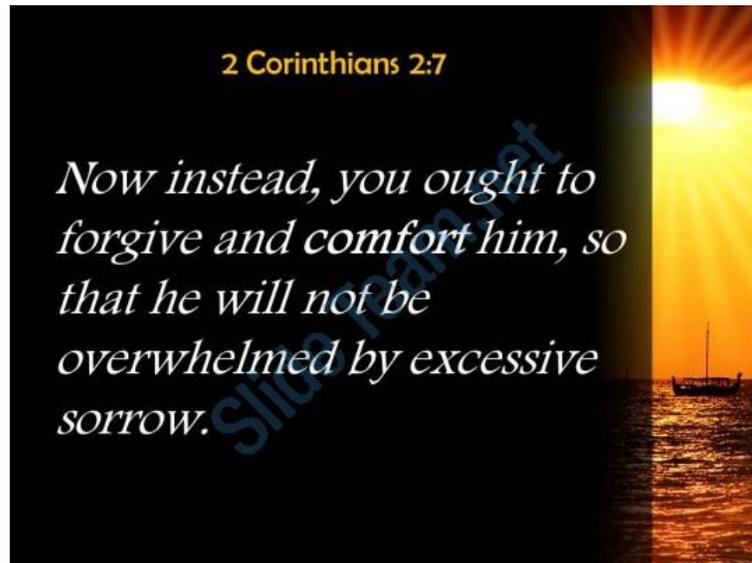
- ✓ Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25 – Obey the Word of God.
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 2:1-11– Paul’s love, pain, and forgiveness.
- ✓ Psalm 33 – God’s Word is Right and True and He is faithful in all that He does.

### REFLECTIONS:

**Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25.** Note the emphasis on the importance of the Word of God in the context of *obedience*. Virtue is never established simply by knowing anything, including Bible doctrine and truths of the Word of God. It is the doing of the Word of God that habituates the virtue or goodness into the life and thus creates virtue in the life of man, be it natural virtue or supernatural virtue (which is natural virtue raised up to the spiritual level in a relationship with the Lord), see James 1:21-25. It really is all about what we actualize in our lives. We become what we actualize in our inclinations, desires, and thought patterns. When we live out the Word of God, we actualize spiritual virtue. When we sin, we actualize evil into our lives. In either case, we become different in our basic proclivities, desires, and way of thinking. So, in this section, when the Lord promises blessings for following the Ten Commandments (e.g., not to follow other gods or make idols or misuse the name of God or dishonor parents or murder or commit adultery or steal or covet, 5:6-21), the believer is promised blessings for *obedience* (6:1-3)—not for just “knowing” the commandments. It is ludicrous to think that anyone could be blessed by *simply* having these doctrines in the soul, all the while violating them. Note how parents are to instill God’s Word into their children as a way of life (6:6-9)—this is far different from the common practice among many who leave Bible teaching to Sunday and Sunday school teachers. The Word of God is to be a way of life that is to be instilled in the little people *every day!* Then, the Lord warns His people about prosperity in 6:10-19 because increased prosperity *always* brings more temptations. This section ends with Moses reminding his audience of the crucial need to pass on God’s values to their children (6:20-25). It really is all about living out the principles of the Word of God as a philosophy of life in Realism *daily!*



**2 Corinthians 2:1-11.** Paul explains why he thought it best not to make another painful visit to the Corinthians because he experienced such an unpleasant confrontation the last time. In other words, Paul's abandoned plans for a double visit because it was so disagreeable—he did not want another scene. There is a high concentration of pain that dominates the first five verses of this chapter. Paul faced a dilemma. If he visited Corinth, it might cause more pain and problems. However, if he stood away it is likely that the problem would fester, making reconciliation even more difficult. Paul is not stoical about the pain the dispute caused him. He does not try to hid his emotion but expresses it boldly. He had felt deeply their affection for him, and the apparent withdrawal of that affection had wounded him all the more. Paul insists that the grief he caused them was the surest sign of his love. He rebukes them as a loving father. Moreover, in spite of being the object of the Corinthians' abuse, Paul, like a good father, continues to seek their best interest and responds to impudence with sacrificial love. After describing his own feelings, he turns to the specific incident that provoked his grief. However, he does not mention names or even the incident. His goal is to bring healing, not to recount the events to prove how right he was. Paul had forgiven the individual and so should others. There is no place for lack of forgiveness in a local body of Christ.



**Psalm 33.** The psalmist called on the righteous to praise the Lord because His Word is dependable and all of His works are always righteous—which means He never sends evil/unjust suffering. So, this psalm is all about praising and rejoicing in the Lord because of His Word and because He is dependable, righteous, loyal, and foils the plans of the wicked nations. Note how trust and hope fill this psalm. This is something that should be part of our daily life as we reflect on the fact that the one who gives us existence every moment is also righteous and faithful in all of His works. What a way to live! What a loss for unbelievers and believers who are caught up in the world and do not treasure God's Holy Word.



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don