

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

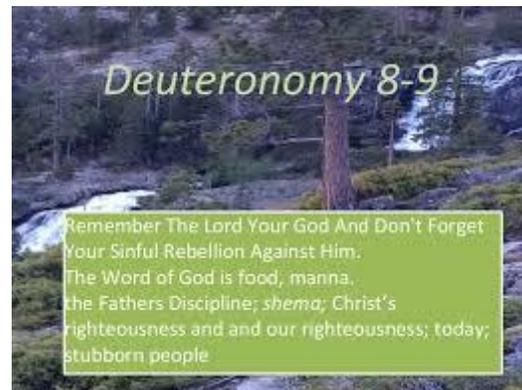
April 6, 2016

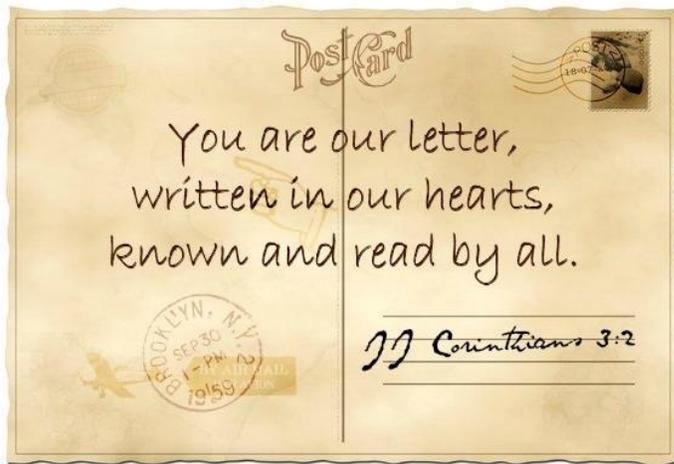
- ✓ Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22 – Remember!
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 3:1-8– Our sufficiency is in God.
- ✓ Psalm 35:1-11 – Praying for justice.

REFLECTIONS:

Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22. In the first six verses Moses want to make sure that the Israelites do not think that the conquest is due to their “righteousness.” Moreover, he shows that from a purely military and human point of view, victory was going to be impossible. We must all remember that any victory that we obtain in our own lives is because of the grace of God—period!

Following this reminder, Moses provides a synopsis of their history from “Operation Golden Calf” to the rewriting of the Ten Commandments. Two problems that seem to plague believers throughout the Old Testament and New Testament are pride and failure to remember. When we have victories, we tend to think that it was because of *us*: because *we* are smart, or because *we* have so much positive volition, or because *we* study the Word regularly, or because *we* are walking in the Lord, or because *we* are such truth seekers, or because we are so gifted, and a thousand other “wes” and “whys.” We must remember that all victory is in the Lord and because of the Lord and His grace. He provides it all! He gives us existence every instant and everything that we are and have is from Him. The fact that we are even given the privilege of seeking Whole Truth and Total Truth is due to His grace. The other problem is that we fail to *remember* His faithfulness in our lives. It is noteworthy that the command to “remember” fills both the Old Testament and New Testament. God’s people are constantly told to “remember.” We are to look at our past and remember the faithfulness of God over every step of our lives. The same God who provided for us in the past will continue to provide. His faithfulness will never change. He is there and He is not silent. However, there is another thing we must remember and that is our past failures and sins, but only in the context of God’s grace. Is this not exactly what God commands the Israelites to remember in our passage for today? Remembering our past evil is not designed to move us into guilt and shame. God’s point here is to remember those hard lessons so as not to repeat them. The point is that God’s grace is greater than all of our failures, but this should never be used as a means to be lax about our sinful patterns lest we repeat them and fail once again.





2 Corinthians 3:1-8. In this section Paul sees the work of God in the lives of the Corinthians as indicated by him writing “You are our letter, inscribed on our hearts, known and read by all people, revealing that you are a letter of Christ, delivered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on stone tablets but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Cor. 3:2-3). He goes on to focus on the power of God rather than any adequacy in believers, “Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as from ourselves,

but our adequacy is from God” (3-4). Paul’s confidence is in the work of Christ and the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit. It is crucial for us to remember that all of our successes and failures must be put in the proper context. Any true goodness in us is but a testimony to the Spirit’s work in our lives and the saving work of Christ. As far as the bad, what comfort to know that even though that is not glossed over by God, it is all paid for by Jesus Christ. We should all check our core orientation in life. Is it geared to who and what we are, in our own perceived qualities and traits, or are we a living letter of the grace and power of God?

Psalm 35:1-11. In this psalm we have David's responses to undeserved suffering. In the previous psalm, prayer is seen as the solution and in that crisis God "heard him" (34:6). But agony continues so there is need for persistency in prayer to the point where the prayer submits *all* one's needs to the Lord and His resources, and *all* of one's timetable to His. After David pleads for divine intervention (1-3), he prays for retribution (4-6) so that God would be exalted (9-10). David's focus was on divine justice. David was "hated without cause" and so appeals to the justice of God. Instead of a general "Your will be done," David is asking God to execute His righteousness on these evil people. While believers certainly should not go around asking God to execute judgment on all of those who mistreat them or who are generally unfair to them, there is a place for praying for God to destroy evildoers. There are a lot a "bad folks" out there who have set themselves against God and continue to exploit and abuse the weak among us, like our children, the elderly, and the helpless. There is nothing wrong with wanting divine justice poured out on evildoers of this world from terrorists who cut heads off of Christians to child molesters. Justice is a good thing. Note that those who were martyred for their faith and who are in the presence of God in glory cry out to God with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:10). It is natural, human, and even righteous to desire justice to be executed on the malefactors of this world. For example, may the Lord destroy the evil doers before they harm another child or innocent person.



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don