

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

December 5, 2016

Jeremiah 7:30–9:26. God’s justification for His impending judgment on His people.

Colossians 3:18–4:18. The Christ-centered family.

Proverbs 13:1–25. Wisdom and its treasure-trove in Christ.

COMMENTS.

Jeremiah 7:30–9:26. In the place where God’s people sacrificed their own children, they will be slaughtered by the Babylonians (7:30-34). Moreover, the enemy will desecrate the graves of God’s people (8:1-3). God’s people’s refuse to return to the Lord (4:4-13) and they resign to the coming invasion (8:14-17). Then, Jeremiah laments for his people (8:18-9:6). Following this, God provides justification for the coming punishment (9:7-16).

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Jeremiah was a faithful shepherd, who identified with the hurts of the people. His heart “fainted” (8:18) as he mourned in horror at divine judgment on them. “*For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt* (8:21).” The false prophets had made the wrong diagnosis and prescribed the wrong remedy, and the wounds of the nation were still open, bleeding, and infected. Every faithful pastor feels the pain when believers destroy themselves with their love affair for the world rather seek the Lord Jesus Christ foremost. It is painful to watch believers ignore the warnings of God. Like in Jeremiah’s day, there are plenty of pastors who will provide false remedies to handle problems. There really is only one remedy to anything and everything that ails us and that is life in God by *proper knowledge and proper love*. Without a proper second person knowledge coupled with love for Him as such, the cancer of evil will only continue to grow, even if the symptoms are covered up by false messages such as positive thinking and getting God to work for you in the pursuit and love affair with kosmos diabolicus. The point of everything in the Bible is to love God (Matthew 22:37-40), not use Him for other perceived “higher goods.”

Colossians 3:18–4:18. This reading includes a section on the Christ-centered family (3:18-4:1), instructions prayer and conduct with others (4:2-6), and final thoughts (4:7-18).

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. In this reading we find the basis for a Christ-centered marriage. Note that the husband has the responsibility of loving his wife—the sacrificing, serving love that Christ shares with His church. A marriage may begin with normal, human, romantic love, but it must continue to grow deeper into the spiritual love that comes only from God. In the parallel passage (Eph. 5:18), Paul made it clear that the husband must love his wife “even as Christ loved the church.” Jesus Christ gave His all for the church! He willingly died for us! The measure of a man’s love for his wife is not seen only in gifts or words, but in acts of sacrifice and concern for her happiness and welfare. He is to be the spiritual leader of his wife and family. Of course, a husband cannot give a love that he does not experience/know. In other words, apart from *walking with God by proper knowledge and proper love*, the husband will not share in the life and love of God, which would then enable him to share

such a love with his wife—a love that certainly exclude the “bitterness” noted in Col. 3:19. To be embittered to one’s wife is to refuse to love her unconditionally.

Proverbs 13:1–25. This chapter provides proverbs on life’s realities. The first twelve verses touch on issues related to desires and wealth. The remaining verses shows the importance of wisdom, which is open to advice, correction, and submission. A wise person is always willing to listen—precisely because he really is seeking truth. It is the fool who is stubborn and is not really interested in the quest for truth as such.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. The Bible is unequivocal in its claim that the real treasure-trove of God’s wisdom and knowledge is hidden in Christ (Col. 2:3). Christ just is the highest and greatest manifestation of both God (Heb. 1:1-3) and man. Christ is also the epitome of goodness, the Exemplar of life. He is the Example of what it means to live for God *by proper knowledge and proper love*. We are commanded to keep our eyes on Him (Heb. 12:1-2), especially to follow Him in response to unjust suffering (1 Pet. 2:21), and we can see how the Thessalonians are commended for being imitators of Christ—a life that changed the then known world. When any believer walks with God *by proper knowledge and proper love* with a Christ-centered focus, he walks much different than those around him in the world—such was the case in the first century and such is the case today. Do you walk and respond to difficulties like everyone else? Or are you different because you walk and respond to everything out of your love for Christ? Who are you imitating? the world or Christ?

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and by proper love,

Pastor Don