

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

Feb. 27, 2016

- ✓ Leviticus 23-25 – Laws regarding feasts (23); various regulations (24); sabbatical year (25).
- ✓ John 10:1-21 – The Good Shepherd.
- ✓ Song of Solomon 8:6-9 – Love is priceless.

COMMENTARY:

Leviticus 23-25. Let us note a couple of spiritual principles from Lev. 25:23: *The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.* First, “The land is Mine” was true in a special sense of the land which God gave by promise to the Israelites, which was kept by obedience, and lost by rebellion. But there is a principal here that applies to us every moment of every day: all that we are and have is from the Lord every instant. We are only here for a very short time; our stay here is transient. We really do not “possess” things here in any way apart from God. God, *Esse*, is possessor of all, by virtue of His very nature, by His creation and preservation of us and of all things. When we talk about ‘mine’ and ‘His,’ we are speaking inaccurately. What is our attitude toward all that He has given us, say over the past few months? A growing thankfulness? Or a sour entitled attitude for not having more? What is our attitude toward our life and health? Growing in gratitude or feeling that God is entitled to give us good health?

Does health problems promote bitterness or humility in us? When we look back on the last few months, are they filled with life with God and growth in virtue? When we think of God at this moment, does it bring us joy? Are we oriented to His-story for our lives? Do we congratulate ourselves for our gifts of wit, looks, possessions, etc.? Or do we live in appreciation of life and all that *God has given* to us—the best of which is



Himself? Are we thriving and growing in a second person relationship with God, or is His presence dead to us, except for times we need Him or His power? Are we growing in love for Him and others on this incredible journey that He has granted to us from eternity past? Are we more submissive to Him than we were a month ago or do we find ourselves more rebellious and apathetic with regard to His desire? All of reality is of, from, for, and unto God every instant. Second, “You are strangers and sojourners.” Why? because our native land, our real home, is elsewhere. It is not merely the physical facts of death and change that make us strangers here, but the direction of our desires, and the true affinities of our nature. If by these we belong to Heaven and God, then here we shall feel as strangers longing for the New Heaven-Earth, united with God—such a view motivates any believer to eagerly long for that city (Heb. 11:10-16).

John 10:1-21. What beautiful and rich metaphors we find in this section that depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Unlike all of the false teachers and people who really do not care about us, Jesus guides us, provides for us, and has given His life for us. He cares more for us than any person in the universe. Note the reciprocal knowledge and intimacy that is described in terms of the sheep knowing Him and He knowing them. Let us not forget that Jesus Christ was one Person with two natures, which means that His person was divine—God in the flesh came for us and will never forsake us. There really is nothing like Christianity. It is uniquely filled with grace and love!



Song of Solomon 8:6-9. Verses 6-7 sum up the nature and power of love depicted throughout the Book. It is as universal and irresistible as death and passionate as a blazing fire, which many waters could not quench. The final statement about such love: all of one's wealth would be totally inadequate to purchase such love—in fact, such money would be scorned, because love cannot be bought. Any attempt to buy love is to destroy it. If love is priceless, how then can it be obtained? The answer is that it must be given. **Ultimately love is a gift from God.** Verse 8, which begins the epilogue, is a flashback to the protection of the beloved by her brothers when she was young and her initial meeting with Solomon. Both natural love and spiritual love are wonderful gifts from the Lord that should never be neglected or disparaged in any way.

