

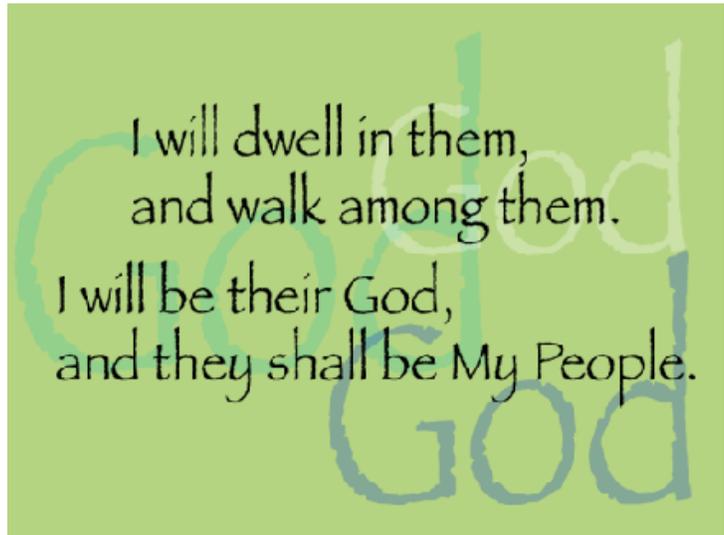
## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

**Feb. 28, 2016**

- ✓ Leviticus 26-27 – Blessings and cursings (26); vows (27).
- ✓ John 10:22-42 – Eternal Security.
- ✓ Song of Solomon 8:10-14 – Love, sex, purity.

### COMMENTARY:

**Leviticus 26-27.** Leviticus 26 is the basis of the doctrine of the Five Cycles of Discipline on a nation: cycle #1: 26:16-17; #2: 26:18-20; #3: 26:21-22; #4: 26:23-26; #5: 26:27-46. While there are universal principles in these passages that apply to any nation, this passage is for Israel and cannot be made to apply to the United States of America—as obvious to anyone who really looks carefully at all of the punishments and laws in these passages, like divine discipline for not observing the Sabbath. America has been used mightily by God in modern history. However, it is not God’s nation in the same way Israel is: God has not made a covenant with America like He has with Israel (Lev. 26:6). The best place to build principles for our gentile nation is found in Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-14. In short, government was never designed for the various functions that our government has taken on today, like welfare from the cradle to the grave, or become involved in business activities—except execution of its laws. There are only two principle functions of government as noted in the 1 Peter passage above: punish the evil and reward the good. As far as universal personal and spiritual principles that we can use regardless of what nation we find ourselves in, note the wonderful promise in Lev. 26:11-12. This is the heart of the spiritual life from Genesis 1 to the throughout the eternal state of Revelation 22.



**John 10:22-42.** John 10:28-29 is one of the most powerful passages in the Word of God on wonderful doctrine of eternal security. It is one of the clearest statements in the Bible that one who believes in Jesus for salvation will never be lost. We believers sin and stumble and willfully get involved in all kinds of vile activity. However, Jesus as the perfect Shepherd loses none of His flock. Eternal life is a gift (John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 10:10; Rom. 6:23). If one has it, he has it eternally. “They shall never perish” is a very strong affirmation in the Greek with two negatives for emphasis (“they will indeed not ever perish”). The security of the sheep is found in the ability of the Shepherd to defend and preserve His flock. Such security does not depend on the ability or any righteousness of the frail sheep. No one can even snatch His sheep out of His hand. No one, not the Devil and not even ourselves! “What My Father has given Me is greater than all” adds even more emphasis as it brings in the omnipotence of the Father and with it His power and protection. God’s plan of salvation for Jesus’ flock cannot be



thwarted or aborted. There is great freedom in eternal security. Instead of having to perform certain works to keep one’s salvation, one is free to focus on a love relationship with the Lord. While critics of eternal security often charge that such a doctrine provides freedom to sin, which it undoubtedly does for some, the truth is that it provides the freedom and security of a loving relationship. Consider the analogy of marriage. While it is true that some vile husband or wife might cheat on the spouse if they were sure that the spouse would never leave them, it is also true that such security provides the opportunity for greater love for those with virtue. Unconditional love and commitment provides an environment to flourish in any relationship that is impossible in a relationship that must earn love and acceptance to continue. Every husband and wife is responsible to provide an environment of unconditional love and acceptance for the spouse as a picture of the love and acceptance of the Lord for all of His people.

**Song of Solomon 8:10-14.** The beloved's own testimony is that she was chaste (I am a wall). Therefore, she did not need the restrictions her brothers suggested. Having grown up and matured physically, she was then pure for her husband which enabled her to give him (Solomon) contentment. The Hebrew word for contentment *shalom* provides an interesting wordplay because it sounds much like Solomon's name (*shelomoh*). Apparently they first met in a vineyard that Solomon had leased out to her brothers. "My own vineyard" is a metaphor for the beloved's own person (cf. 1:6). Only she could give herself to another (she said her own vineyard was hers to give) and she freely chose to give herself to Solomon. Even her possessions (including her income, 1,000 shekels) were his. In verses 13-14 we have the two lovers recall early passionate requests from their courtship days which show that their love had not lost its intensity. He said to her, let me hear your voice; and she requested that he (whom she again called my lover) be like a gazelle or like a young stag. In their courtship she had longed for him to take her as his bride. Now in their marriage she longed with the same intensity for his strength and agility. The Song of Solomon is a beautiful picture of God's "endorsement" of physical love between husband and wife. Marriage is to be a monogamous, permanent, self-giving unit, in which the spouses are intensely devoted and committed to each other, and take delight in each other. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). The Song shows that sex in marriage is not "dirty." The physical attractiveness of a man and woman for each other and the fulfillment of those longings in marriage are natural and honorable. But the book does more than extol physical attraction between the sexes. It also honors pleasing qualities in the lovers' personalities. Also moral purity before marriage is praised (Song 4:12). Premarital sex has no place in God's plans (2:7; 3:5). Faithfulness before and after marriage is expected and is honored (6:3; 7:10; 8:12). Such faithfulness in marital love beautifully pictures God's love for and commitment to His people. What a deal☺ What beauty and enjoyment that world misses in our age of illicit sexual obsessions that saturate commercials for such things as cars and hamburgers. What an obvious manifestation of the world's unfulfilled sexual desires that can never be slaked in the illicit alleys of hedonism.



On the Glory Road,

Pastor Don