

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

March 13, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 14:1-45– God’s people rebel against God and Moses intercedes for them.
- ✓ John 19:17-42 – The crucifixion and burial of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Psalm 14:1-15:5 – Godlessness (14); Godliness (15).

REFLECTIONS:

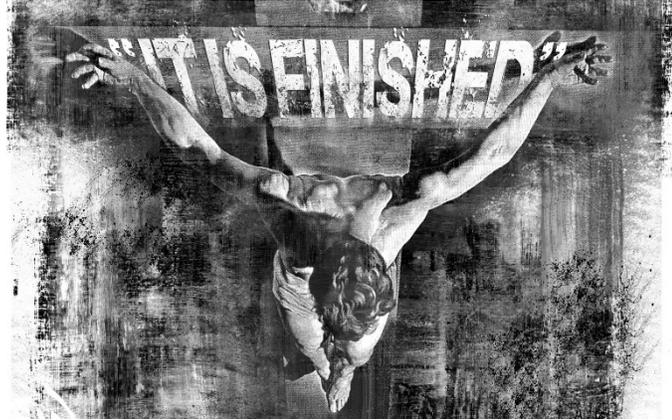
Numbers 14:1-45. God threatens to destroy the rebellious Israelites and Moses intercedes for them. Let us note Moses’ approach. First, observe the ground

of forgiveness: the appeal is not based on anything in the people; it is based on God’s nature. God is not asked to forgive them because of their repentance or their faith. These may be conditions on which God pardons us, but they are never the *reasons* why it is given by Him. Nor does Moses appeal to any sacrifices that have been offered to placate God. He goes much deeper. He appeals to the very nature of God: ‘The Greatness of Your Mercy.’ It is God’s nature to be merciful to forgive and bestow grace upon all who are willing to accept it. Second, note Moses’s appeal to God’s past actions: ‘as you have forgiven . . . even until now.’ It is always comforting to be able to study God’s past actions to understand the magnitude of God’s grace. Third, see the need for a Mediator. Moses is a dim shadow of Christ. And as Hebrews tells us, Moses was faithful in all his house, but

Jesus is the True Mediator, whose intercession consists in presenting the constant efficacy of His sacrifice for all believers: *Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

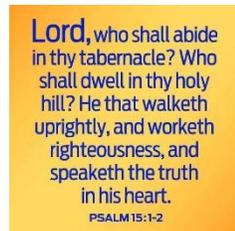


John 19:17-42. In verse 30 Jesus said “it is finished! τετέλεστα! While the perfect tense in and of itself does not mean “it is finished in the past with the results that continue forever,” it is a fact that the work of the God-man is a completed work that last forever because it is a work of God. To be clear there was no human person in Jesus Christ. Recall that the Hypostatic Union declares that there is one Person with two natures, not two persons (God and man) in two natures (God and man). The Self of all of the assertions and acts of Jesus Christ was none other than God Himself.



God took on a human nature and God bore all of man’s sins: *Acts 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* Natures do not bear sins, a person does and the person of Jesus Christ was God Himself wrapped in flesh and blood. God paid it all for every single person, but He never forces anyone to accept His love. God even wanted Judas to repent, which would have been a greater good as evidenced by Jesus’s appeal to Him, but he would not and so God used that evil for His good—to teach others even though many will never learn. The fact that Jesus appealed to Judas not to betray Him indicates that this was God antecedent will. Unlimited atonement means that Christ died not only for those who would believe but also for all of those people who would never accept the gift: *1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world*—this is an idea that is not welcomed in Calvinistic theology which sees a divine antecedent will for all evil and the damnation of those who are not chosen. In a word “fatalism.”

Psalm 14:1-15:5. Psalm 14 provides a very graphic picture of the foolishness of man as he rejects God and His grace. What does David do when he thinks about the wickedness of man? He longs for God’s kingdom, see 14:7. Note how the psalm about those who say “no” to God is followed by Psalm 15, which provides a much different picture: one of guests of the Lord who will be outfitted to worship in the Lord’s sanctuary and to live in His presence. What a contrast in the characteristics and the future of the wicked and righteous!



In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don