

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

**March 14, 2016**

- ✓ Numbers 15:1-41– Offerings.
- ✓ John 20:1-31 – Resurrection morning.
- ✓ Psalm 16:1-11—God is the only absolute good.

### REFLECTIONS:

**Numbers 15:1-41.** The various offerings are outlined in the section for the new generation of Israelites, given that the adult generation of Israel were sentenced to die in the wilderness. The burnt and freewill offerings (15:1-16) were not sin or guilt offerings; rather, they were offerings given as a part of fellowship with God and their thankfulness to the Lord for the privilege of being His people under His protection. Only appreciation of God’s grace and love for Him enables one to take pleasure in

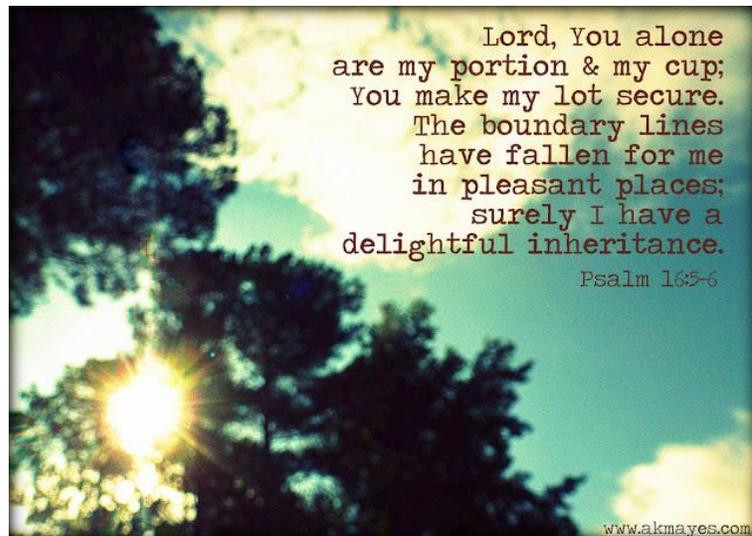


temporal “sacrifices.” One major problem prevalent today is that people feel that God owes them something. Consider the incoherence among believers who readily acknowledged that we do not earn or deserve anything from God because it is all due to His grace, but then turn around and say why did not God do this or do that as if God owed them protection and blessings. He does not! It is we who owe Him, not the other way around. Every instant of life, regardless of the circumstances is a gift of *Esse!*

**John 20:1-31.** Unlike the disciples who returned to their homes, Mary remains at the tomb crying. She was so absorbed with the loss of Jesus that she did not even recognize as unusual the two angels (even though they likely appeared as normal men). Jesus then speaks to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Verse 16 tells us that Mary turned around to see who was speaking to her and having recognized who it was must have felt a transcendent awe. She responds with "Raboni!" in full submission. The fact that Jesus appeared to Mary rather than one of the disciples is significant. That a woman would be the first to see Him is an evidence of Jesus' reciprocal love as well as a mark of the narrative's historicity. No Jewish author in the ancient world would have invented a story with a woman as the first witness to this most important event. No doubt, Jesus introduced Himself to Mary first because she had so earnestly sought Him. She was at the cross while He was dying (John 19:25), and she went to His tomb early on Sunday morning (20:1). Note the beauty of Jesus calling her by name, "Mary"! As the Good Shepherd, He calls His sheep by name!



**Psalm 16:1-11.** In verse 2 the psalmist declares "I have no good apart from You." God really is all that we need. While God made us as humans with other desires and needs—food, water, oxygen, work, rest, sex, spouse, family, other believers—God really is our only absolute Good. All other goods are limited and corruptible and therefore can never satisfy us. It is not that earthly pleasures are bad in and of themselves, it is just that they are all limited and thus can never take the place of the absolute good of God. It is a great evil to put the limited goods of life above the absolute goodness of God Himself. This was the error of Adam and Eve and the source of the First Sin. Adam and Eve decided to go with the limited and corruptible goodness of the fruit of the tree rather than the absolute goodness



of God. Recall that they had no sin nature in them. The nature of this sin and all sin is a bad judgment. They looked at the absolute goodness of God and the limited goodness of the fruit—and in the case of Adam the limited goodness of Eve—and decided to go with the limited goodness rather than the unlimited goodness of God. The problem was that they were not diligent about keeping the goodness of God foremost in their lives. If they could fail without a sin nature, what does that teach us about our need for diligence given that we have a fallen nature

that is so tuned in to limited sensed goods? Our world is filled with all kinds temptations of false goods/gods, just look at all of the modern idols that fill the magazine racks and TV screens and consider how the world “hastens after another god” as per Psalm 16:4. How did the psalmist avoid being like all of those who are hurrying after another god? By putting Yahweh before him always as his portion and cup, 16:5, 8.

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

Pastor Don