

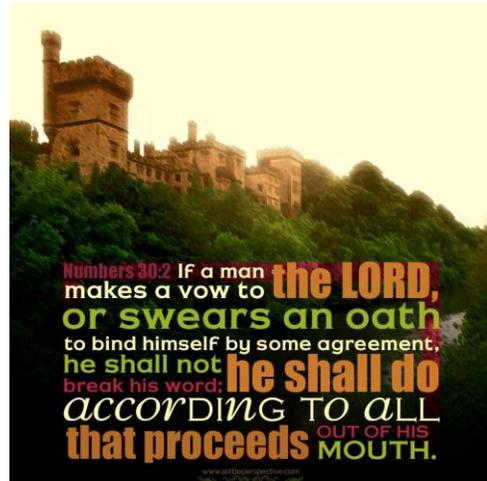
## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

**March 26, 2016**

- ✓ Numbers 30:1-16 –Laws concerning vows.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13 – Spiritual love.
- ✓ Psalm 25:1-22 – Second person relationship with God.

### REFLECTIONS:

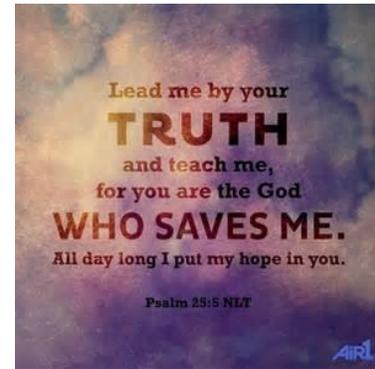
**Numbers 30:1-16.** In our text, an individual could make a vow to the Lord to do something or perhaps abstain from something for a designated period of time. The purpose in this chapter was to teach how important it was to keep a vow. The examples include men, unmarried daughters, and widows. These vows are strictly voluntary, but any person who made a vow to the Lord must fulfill that commitment. Vows in Scripture assumed God as a witness and either implicitly or explicitly called on Him to punish the offending party if they were not fulfilled. The term vow (*nadar*) carries connotations of the verbal act of commitment to a task or to consecration of self or property to the Lord. In the New Testament Jesus condemned the practice of vows in Matthew 5:33-37. Analogously, though, God Himself made a vow or promise to Abraham and David concerning His grace promises (Gen. 22:16; Heb. 6:13-18; Psalm 89:35). As far as us believers, it is important to tell the truth in all matters, not just in oaths, because God in fact is a witness to all of our words.



**1 Corinthians 12:12-13:13.** Paul moves from the differences in the body of Christ in chapter 12 to love chapter 13. Many times I have hammered home the point that love is not to be reduced to a relaxed mental attitude, a concept created as part of a conduit system to enable the Holy Spirit to work His power in the person. The reason I have belabored the point is because without spiritual love there is no spiritual virtue as pointed out in 1 Corinthians 13. Instead of being a relaxed good conduit, for the Holy Spirit to work His power in the believer, the believer is actually commanded to love as unto the Lord, which invites the Holy Spirit to take that love and raise it to the supernatural level as unto the Lord. Loving someone is caring about that person and seeing them valuable as a creation of God. We are to like and love the person as a person even if we do not like what that person does (actions).



**Psalm 25:1-22.** I have often stressed, at least in my mind, the importance of a second person daily relationship with God, a relationship that is only possible by meditating on and praying to Him on a regular basis. Note in this Psalm how David turns to the Lord for divine instruction and forgiveness. Note how he meditates on the character of God, which prompts him to respond with confession and prayer. Note the beauty of the second person communication as he pours out his soul to the Lord. It really is all about the second person relationship with God instead of a “relationship” with self (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> person = **I** need to trust the Lord) or a “relationship” with someone not present (3<sup>rd</sup> person = **He** will protect me). Only in second person meditation and prayer qualifies as a living relationship with a living God who is always there.



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don