

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”**  
**May 15, 2016**

- ✓ **1 Chronicles 2:1-55.** The genealogy of Judah.
- **1 Tim. 3:1-7.** Qualifications of the pastor-teacher.
- ✓ **Psalm 75:1-76:12.** Celebration of our Righteous God.

**COMMENTS:**

**1 Chronicles 2:1-55.** This chapter focuses on the line of Judah. Placing Judah first among the tribes prepares the reader for the prominence of the house of David as the text moves quickly to the Davidic line (2:11–15). In this we see, in part, the messianic program of Chronicles. From a genealogical perspective, the royal clan of Judah did not show much promise. His eldest son Er died because of wickedness. As a familiarity with the account would show (Gen 38), it did not get much better since Judah’s second and third sons did not bear sons either. It was rather through the sordid incident of Judah and his daughter-in-law Tamar, disguised as a prostitute, that the promised heritage was perpetuated through their twin sons, Perez and Zerah. Ironically, the Chronicler could in one and the same breath show the consequences of sin (death of Er) and also the grace of God abounding in the midst of it as two sons were born by means of Judah’s wicked deed. Out of this union came the ancestral father of Israel’s greatest king (Ruth 4:18–22). This demonstrates the grace of God and His faithfulness. The Chronicler has no inhibitions recording the sordid events in the line of Judah, an attitude of grace we also see in the genealogies of Christ in the New Testament. God’s grace is always there to overrule man’s evil. On a personal level, it is important to remember that no man has an absolutely free will. Man’s will will always seek what he considers good. The danger is that with every actualization of evil as a good by the will, man develops a stronger like/habit/inclination for evil as a good (as per sin). This is how precisely how believers in this genealogy became increasingly evil year by year. We become what we actualize in our lives for better or for worse.

**1 Tim. 3:1-7.** These verses list the various qualifications for a pastor-teacher. Note the strong moral tone to them, the emphasis on virtue, and control of his life. The pastorate requires the virtue of prudence, which provides rational control over all of the affections, passions, distractions, and ups and downs in the ministry. We are also told that the pastor should not be a new believer due to vulnerability of pride, which caused the fall of Satan. Satan likes nothing better than to disgrace Christianity by enticing church leaders in sin before a captious world. Besides the moral qualities, the pastor-teacher must have the ability to teach others, which means that he must know and be committed to truth as such. In sum, the pastor must be able to govern his own life/passions, his own family, and be able to teach others the Word of God (which includes refuting misuse of God’s Word, Titus 1:9). While the passages do indicate that he is to be agreeable, his personality should never be the issue. He is not to try to be Mr. Personality to make everyone feel warm and “godly.” It is not about the man, it is about the message. However, if the man is not virtuous, it will affect his message: for example, consider how violation of the twelfth qualification (‘he is not to be a lover of money’) effects the message of preachers in today’s prosperity movement.

**Psalm 75:1-76:12.** This section of Scripture celebrates the anticipated victory of the Lord at the appointed time. Every believer should take comfort in the fact that one day the Lord is going to fix this broken, rebellious world. As these two psalms teach, there will come a time when God will be known and celebrated for His righteous judgment on the wicked—a day in which His righteous shall also be exalted, 75:10.

*Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

Pastor Don