

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
May 25, 2016

- ✓ **1 Chronicles 16:1-17:27.** Second person relationship with the Lord.
- ✓ **2 Timothy 1:3-18.** Keep the sound teachings.
- ✓ **Psalms 84:1-12.** Blessedness, integrity, and happiness.

COMMENTS:

1 Chronicles 16:1-17:27. In David’s hymn of thanksgiving in 16:7-36, he enjoins believers to “Seek His face continually” (בְּקִשׁוֹ פָּנָיו תְּמִיד). The verb is in the Piel stem for emphasis and the adverb indicates this is to be a continual way of life. “His face” points to a second person relationship. Contrary to the Mormons, God really does not have a face, spiritual or otherwise. Of course you could not prove that with a Bible-only hermeneutic. It is *only* because of philosophical realism and Romans 1:20 that we know that all of the passages that speak of God as having a face are figures of speech. The face speaks of an intimate 2nd person living relationship with God. Recall that in 1st person it is all about the person, the “I.” Have you ever tried to have a relationship with someone who was just focused on himself? It does not matter how close he is, there is no connection, no intimate relationship. Recall that in 3rd person the focus might be on the person but as a “he” or “she.” For example, a young lady could be talking to a young man, but he is not really connecting or sharing in her expressed thoughts. Instead, he is thinking of her as an object, either positively or negatively, “wow she looks good,” or “why does she talk so much?” Two people could be standing and talking “face to face” with each other, but if they are in 1st or 3rd mindsets, there can be no intimate and dynamic relationship. Another example is in autism where the individual is unable to connect in 2nd person, no matter how close, the autistic child can only view the person he is with as a tool rather than in a personal relationship. When David speaks of speaking face to face with the Lord, he is speaking of 2nd person relationship—a relationship when the believer is fully engaged in the God who is there. In second person the believer is directly engaging God as if He is right there before Him, *which, of course, He is.* Think of how odd it is for a believer to act as if God is not right before him by thinking mainly in terms of 1st person and 3rd person. What would you think if you were standing before someone and they started referring to you in third person? What if a husband was standing in front of his wife, and as he was thinking of her he started saying, “boy I sure love her!”? Is there not a disconnect? How in the world could a love relationship grow in 3rd person? As I noted, it is in 2nd person relationship with God that the relationship really grows. And it is in prayer that the 2nd person connection is most often realized. No wonder the Scripture commands that we should “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17) and even informs us that prayer actually edifies the believer: **Jude 1:20** *But you, beloved, building yourselves* (ἐποικοδομοῦντες, this is not only the word for edification of the soul, it has a prefixed preposition, ἐπ, for emphasis) *upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit* (all prayer is to be to the Father, through the Son, and by the power of the Holy Spirit).

2 Timothy 1:3-18. In verses 13-14 Paul is conscious of the threat of false teachers and is mindful of giving Timothy support to combat the threat to his spiritual life. His charge to Timothy is to keep the “pattern of sound teaching.” Then, he tells Timothy that this is done by the power of the Holy Spirit (14). Note the extent of those who deserted Paul in verse 15: “all those in Asia.” The ministry of teaching is not for the faint of heart. However, along with the gift of pastor-teacher comes a God-given passion for truth, but that passion requires life under the ministry of the Holy Spirit to flourish, whose ministry is all about Truth, and who is always there for strength and guidance (14).

Psalms 84:1-12. This psalm expresses a yearning for a formal place of worship. The psalmist longs for the Lord (1-4) and speaks of the pilgrimage to the Temple (5-7). Note the mention of “blessedness.” This is an inner state of happiness regardless of the circumstances of life. In our last Bible class, I closed by noting that until our modern period, happiness was always connected with virtue. It was understood that no one could really be happy unless he had integrity. This is no longer believed by many today, including Christians. I also noted that before the modern period, it was understood that a ruler must have virtue to govern properly. Recall the illustration in the movie “Gladiator” as Marcus Aurelius rejected Commodus as ruler over Rome and chose Maximus (Gladiator). By the way, who really lived with inner happiness, vice-filled Commodus who had all of the power, or Maximus in chains fighting for his life? Virtue always brings happiness regardless of the circumstances of life. As they say, “iron bars do not a prison make;” this is illustrated in Maximus in fiction and historically by the imprisoned Paul in the Philippian dungeon (though Paul was on a much higher level, a supernatural level due to supernatural virtue).

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

Pastor Don