

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
May 8, 2016

- ✓ **Judges 13:1-14:20.** Samson’s sinful lust from the Lord?
- ✓ **Philippians 3:12-4:1.** Heavenly-minded or earthly-enemies of the cross?
- ✓ **Psalms 69:1-17.** Suffering for righteousness sake.

COMMENTS:

Judges 13:1-14:20. We see Israel’s constant, and monotonous! downward spiritual spiral with apostasy after apostasy, on again and off again, on again off again ad nauseam relationship with God—such is always the case with any believer who has a functional view of God. I guarantee you that will never find such an up-and-down way of life among those who are true seekers of God and His whole truth. How could you, given that their motivation is always learning more truth and advancing in relationship with God? which is far different than seeing God in a functional way to take care of some problem, which leads to the ups and downs according to one’s problems—such an attitude in my view does not even reach the level of true *love* for God as such in the first place. The apostasy in our text is part of a phase of the idolatrous worship with the “the gods of the Philistines.” In this section we have the raising up of Samson. The question has been asked, “How could God use Samson’s lust after the Philistine girl to accomplish the deliverance of Israel from oppression?” The problem more broadly is that when Samson went to Timnah, he saw a Philistine woman whom he wanted to marry. Although his parents warned him not to pursue such a relation with this godless pagan woman, Samson refused to listen to their counsel. However, Judges 14:4 indicates that Samson’s desire for this woman was the work of God to use Samson to defeat the Philistines. How could God use the evil lusts of Samson to accomplish the deliverance of Israel from Philistine oppression? Solution: It must be realized that, although Samson had been dedicated by his parents from birth to serve the Lord as a Nazarite, he was not committed to the Lord. Samson became a willful and self-centered person. He was not of a mind to go to battle against the Philistines for spiritual reasons. Consequently, God *permitted* Samson’s own self-interests to incite his anger against the Philistines and to bring about the deliverance of Israel from oppression. Be understanding *Esse* and metaphysics, we understand that God is never the direct and immediate cause of any evil. But since He is the one who gives all things existence and is sovereign over all things that exist, then the writers of Scripture occasionally attribute evil actions to Him—which are absolutely not true! This fits perfectly with what I have been teaching on testing: God never directly tests anyone; He only gives good things as per James 1:13-17—even if He is the existential cause of all that is and all of the actions of all that is. We must also remember that much of the Old Testament is written from a phenomenological point of view. This is true not only of the lust of Samson attributable to sovereign God, it is also true of God seeming to change, like repenting (Gen. 6:6). Of course, James tells us that God never changes. He is immutable. James also tells us that the source of lust is man’s own lustful nature (James 1:14). So, which is true: Does God change as often depicted in the Bible anthropomorphically or is He immutable as classical theism asserts? Does evil come from man’s lust or is God the source of evil lust? The biblical data supports both views. The only way one can decide what is the Total Truth, Whole Truth, is through philosophical realism. What is ironic is that Bible-only believers who eschew philosophy vacillate between both views since the biblical data teaches both views. Ironically

Bible-only believers, like Finis Dake, end up with a far inferior God than the one in classical theism and orthodox Christianity—these Bible-only believers end up with a manlike god who is just a bigger and more powerful version of man. This god is stark contrast to God as BE of Exodus 3:14 who never changes and who is never the source of evil as such. We at FBC have the honor and privilege of growing in the God of reality, the “I AM” and recognize the language of accommodation in Scripture as just that.

Philippians 3:12-4:1. This section contains a vivid description of Paul’s passion in the spiritual life (3:12-14). Wow! What a marvelous example for us all! Do you see this as a Good or foolishness? Why or why not? In contrast to a lifestyle that seeks Christ, note the focus of those who are called enemies of the cross in 3:18-19: all they think about is their physical desires and things of the earth—and these individuals are Christians, too! Notice after his discussion of earthly minded Christians, he puts the focus where it should be in 3:20: our heavenly citizenship. This eternal perspective is certainly not something that is common today, unfortunately. Yet, without it, one effectively lives like an enemy of the cross as his heart really is rooted in the things of this earth rather than his glorious future with the Lord.

Psalms 69:1-17. David is suffering for righteousness sake, and boy what suffering he endured: *Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it* (4). Most of us, and I certainly include myself, suffer not for righteousness sake, but because we have not been as loving and patient as we ought to have been to others, which results in us saying unkind, rude, belittling things to others. Although there are people who hate me because I am a pastor who has decided to take a stand for Total Truth and making the spiritual life and the Lord top priority, I would have to say that some of the antagonism toward me is because I have not been as loving and kind in my responses as I should have been. In other words, there are times when I have been a jerk and said things that hurt others, which caused the animosity. While I am serious about the Lord and the spiritual life, I cannot say the reason for my difficulties with that person is because of my spiritual life. It does not follow. Maybe the person I offended is not very spiritual, but that is not the issue. The issue is animosity “without a cause.” I think we should all evaluate our lives and seek reconciliation—love!—with those with whom we have difficulties. This is not always possible because some simply are hostile to the Lord and since they cannot get to Him directly, they will attack the one who represents His Truth. A good passage to reflect on in this regard is Hebrews 12:14, *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.* In closing, I would ask you to begin by reflecting on the first word in this verse. It is the hardest, yet the absolutely necessary starting point.

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

Pastor Don