

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
November 11, 2016**

1 Kings 14:1–15:24. The evil of Jeroboam and Rehoboam.

Mark 9:2–37. The transfiguration.

Proverbs 3:23–35. Your neighbor and your love for Christ.

COMMENTS.

1 Kings 14:1–15:24. In **14:1-20** we have the record of the leader Jeroboam led his people into sin, which caused divine discipline for all of Israel: 1 Kings 14:7 *"Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people, and made you ruler over My people Israel, 8 "and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes; 9 "but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back . . . 16 "And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."* In **14:21-31**, Rehoboam squanders his heritage through spiritual apostasy. His reign was as wicked as Jeroboam's with its high places and male cult prostitutes. Although Judah was preserved because of the promise to David, the LORD in anger punished Rehoboam for his wickedness. He was afflicted by Shishak who was the founder of Egypt's Twenty-second Dynasty. In **chapter 15**, we have history of the mixed results of the kings of Judah and Israel.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Note the political leaders in this reading as they come and go. One of the biggest distractions for Christians today is in putting their hope in political leaders, rather than Jesus Christ who controls history. Instead of using free time in prayer, the study of the Word of God, and fellowship with likeminded believers, we, all too often, spend countless hours in front of our favorite news programming only to end up more frustrated than before. My recommendation is to take that time to be alone with the Lord to reflect on your life with Him both now and the next life—walk Him *by proper knowledge and proper love*. Instead of letting the biased media influence you, let the Lord influence you. In sum, take that same time to develop your love relationship with the Lord rather than subject yourself to all the hysteria, remembering that God is in control now as He was at the time of these evil kings. Were it not for the overruling hand of a sovereign God, the Jewish nation could never have accomplished what God called them to do: bearing witness of the one true and living God, writing the Scriptures, and bringing the Savior into the world. There were now two kingdoms instead of one, and leaders and common people in both kingdoms had departed from the Lord to serve idols. The priests still carried on the temple ministry in Judah, but during the 345 years from Rehoboam to Zedekiah, only eight of Judah's nineteen kings were classified as "good." As for Israel's twenty kings, for the most part, they were all self-seeking men who were classified as "evil." Some were better than others, but none was compared with David. Leaders will come and go; our greatest concern should be "what will my spiritual life be after this ruler has come and gone?"

Mark 9:2–37. Outline: the transfiguration (9:2-13), failed healing (9:14-29), a solemn warning (9:30-32), who is the greatest (9:33-37).

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Note arrogance in verse 34: *But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the greatest.* Note how the blinding effects of this arrogance kept them from grasping the message of Christ regarding His impending crucifixion. Note Christ's solution in verse 35 *And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."* Observe how he set a child before them and explained that the way to be first is to be last, and the way to be last is to be the servant of all. A child knows he is a child and acts like a child. True humility means knowing yourself, accepting yourself, and being yourself—your best self—and giving of yourself for others. The world's philosophy is that you are "great" if others are working for you, but Christ's message is that greatness comes from our serving others. By the way, this message saturates the New Testament and so to reject it is to reject Christ and Christianity. As long as we live our lives as if things must go our way, we will find ourselves in living in angst and divisions in our families and church, and we will miss the beauty of life itself—especially, the beauty of life with the God-man *by proper knowledge and proper love*--something for which neither the world nor carnal Christians have much of an appetite. While we all get to choose our loves, after that our loves always choose our paths. What are you most passionate about?

Proverbs 3:23–35. Outline: wisdom provides freedom from the anxiety that plagues the wicked (23-25); four prohibitions against malevolent behavior (27-30); a prohibition against criminal behavior (31-35).

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Note the repetition of "neighbor." What did Christ say about our neighbors (Matt. 22:37-40)? Do we even know our neighbors? What is our attitude to our neighbors? Whether we like it or not, we represent Christ to our neighbors and to everyone we come in contact with. When I go to my neighborhood Walmart and see a homeless man sitting in the corner of the entrance, what is my attitude? How am I to be Christ to him? By writing him off as a bum who deserves what he gets because he is too lazy to get a job? By prejudging that if I give him money, it will only encourage his homelessness? Or I do reach out with the love of Christ by seeing him as a human being in need? Perhaps he does deserve to be homeless. Perhaps not. What he does not deserve is a lack of love or concern as a human being from one who claims to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Here is just a sample of the sentiments of our Lord on the issue: **Matthew 25:31-46** *"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you*

came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' 45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." **James 1:26-27** If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. Of course, before we can show Christ's love to others, it must be something that we possess. We cannot share a love that we do not possess, and we do not possess this love apart from life in God by proper knowledge and by proper love. And Mammon is the quickest way to destroy that love, which is why Jesus Christ did not spare the most severe denunciations for those who made money a greater priority than the spiritual life and other human beings. **1 Timothy 6:7** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. **Matthew 6:19** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. **Luke 12:19** "And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' **Romans 13:8** Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the

law. Lest you think this is impractical as far as our nation, history shows us that it was this kind of attitude of the 1st century Christians that transformed and conquered the brutal and depraved Roman Empire. Moreover, it is the only kind of attitude that will make America great again—by definition, a nation cannot be great if the people accept the ethos of Sodom and Gomorrah, Babylon, Mammon, or Big Daddy entitlement government regardless of who is running the country.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and by proper love.

Pastor Don