

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

November 22, 2016

**2 Kings 9:30–10:36.** Without a Total Truth attitude in an environment of love, one goes too far.

**Galatians 1:1–2:21.** Paul’s redivivus.

**Proverbs 7:1–9.** Sexual appetites.

### COMMENTS.

**2 Kings 9:30–10:36.** Jehu kills Jezebel (**9:30-37**), Jehu kills Ahab’s family (**10:1-17**), Jehu kills the priests of Baal (**10:18-27**), and Israel’s spiritual decline (**10:28-36**).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** One of the hardest lessons to learn in life is balance. Jehu possessed a “zeal for the Lord” (**10:16**), but that zeal turned into self-righteous crusader arrogance. God gave Jehu an important work to do, but the king went beyond the assigned boundaries and carried his mandate too far. No doubt that the Lord commended Jehu for what he accomplished (**10:30**), but He also chastened him for his pride and compromise. Humanly speaking, were it not for the courageous service of the high priest, Jehoiada, and his wife Jehosheba, the Davidic dynasty would have come to an end because of the indiscriminate killing of Jehu. The future of God’s promises to David, that involved His great plan of salvation, was all wrapped up in a little baby boy named Joash. Only by the total truth, whole truth perspective balanced by life in God *by proper knowledge and proper love* can protect oneself from going too far on any issue. The total/whole truth perspective provides the mindset to value truth above all else. Proper love for God protects a believer from selectively shaving truth according to one’s predilections. Everything that exists, except God, is made of both good and bad, and our desires often shape what we see and what we ignore. Zeal for the Lord always runs the risk of collapsing in arrogance. A characteristic of going too far is when one is always running down others who do not share his “doctrinal views.” There are believers who live in constant disdain of others because they do not have Bible doctrine. It is important to note that one does *not* have to think that it is OK for others to reject Bible doctrine, but the solution is never contempt. Rather, it is living in the love of Christ, a love that keeps us from living an exaggerated life on this side or that side of any issue. The only way to obtain uncompromising integrity and balance is life in God *by proper knowledge and proper love*. Consider how life in God *by proper knowledge and proper love* transformed zealous, mean-spirited, and murderous Saul of Tarsus into loving, uncompromising Apostle Paul, whose entire life was motivated by love for Christ (2 Cor. 5:14), which allowed him to live a life of abundant joy. Joy is always a result of gaining what one values; thus, joy in the Lord is always a result of obtaining a blessed relationship with Him—something the miserable, self-righteous do not have, even if they are right about an issue. All self-righteous people end up being miserable when around others around them do not measure up. This misery gives birth to hatred, which then persecutes the objects of hate as illustrated Jehu and Saul of Tarsus. Uncompromising truth, grace, and love are always the order of the day. It was love for God and others that prevented the redivivus of disdain, scorn, and revenge in

the Apostle Paul even when he was forsaken by others: 2 Timothy 4:16 *At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them.*

**Galatians 1:1–2:21.** The apostolic salutation (1:1-5), curse (1:6-10), vocation (1:11-24), and the apostolic message (2:1-21).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** In this section, Paul speaks of his conversion. Why did Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor of the church, become Paul the Apostle, the preacher of the Gospel? This redivivus was not gradual; it happened suddenly and without warning (Acts 9:1–9). Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians; a few days later he was in Damascus preaching to the Jews that the Christians are right. How could the Judaizers explain this sudden transformation? Was Saul's remarkable "about-face" caused by his own people, the Jews? Of course not! The Jews were encouraging Saul in his program of persecution, and his conversion was an embarrassment to them. Was Saul's change caused by the Christians he was persecuting? Certainly, the believers prayed for him, and there is no doubt that the death of Stephen—and especially the glorious testimony of Stephen's love and grace affected Paul deeply (Acts 22:19–20). However, this testimony could never be sufficient to transform Paul. But if the amazing change in Paul was not caused by the Jews or the church, then who caused it? It had to come from God, and it was determined long before Paul was a Pharisee or he experienced the love and forgiveness of Stephen (1:15). No matter how you look at it, the conversion of Paul was a spiritual miracle. Stephen's supernatural love and forgiveness would not change the heart of Saul. It was humanly impossible for Rabbi Saul to become the Apostle Paul apart from the miracle of God's grace. And the same God who saved Paul also called him to be an apostle and gave him the message of the Gospel. Paul's point in this section is that his past conduct as a persecutor of the church plus the dramatic change that he experienced prove that his message and ministry are from God. There is no other explanation. We all start out with no inclination or ability to walk in God *by proper knowledge and proper love*—only God's grace can actualize that reality.

**Proverbs 7:1–9.** This section provides more warnings from father to son about illicit sex. Observe the importance of cherishing the Word of God in order not to be drawn into illicit sex.

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** Solomon tells us how to avoid adultery. Firstly, we are to feed upon the Word of God to control our hearts—not letting ourselves drift in a wrong direction. Secondly, we must stay away from obvious temptation (the young man just happened to be going past the prostitute's door at twilight?). Third, we should look at what has happened to others—the multitude whose lives have been wrecked. Given that sexual temptations can be extremely powerful, what chance does a young person have in our promiscuous culture apart from the Word of God and life in God *by proper knowledge and proper love*? What possible motivation is there apart from God not to partake of illicit sex that is constantly glorified in the media? If one does not treasure suprasensitive values, what possible motive is there to divest oneself from strong sensual passions? If the higher order, the suprasensitive

appetites, are not developed by life in God *by proper knowledge and proper love*, what is going to educate, guide, influence, and control the lower appetites?

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

*Pastor Don*