

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

November 23, 2016

2 Kings 11:1–12:21. Joash failed because he depended on Jehoiada, not the Lord.

Galatians 3:1–29. Justification by faith defended.

Proverbs 7:10–20. Impure sexual sin.

COMMENTS.

2 Kings 11:1–12:21. Chapter 11 focuses on Athaliah and Joash. With the death of her son Ahaziah, Athaliah seized the throne and killed the royal descendants of David. But God, upholding His promise to David, preserved Joash, the son of Ahaziah. Jehosheba, the half-sister of Ahaziah and wife of the high priest Jehoiada, hid the boy in the temple for the six years of Athaliah’s reign. Athaliah was taken and executed by the guards. Jehoiada renewed the covenant of the Lord, and the people removed the idols associated with the Baal worship Athaliah had promoted. Joash was enthroned at the age of seven. **Chapter 12** covers Joash’s religious reforms. The forty-year reign of Joash was righteous in the sight of the Lord because of the religious reforms he introduced in Judah. When the priests failed to raise funds to repair the neglected temple, Jehoiada collected monies in a chest located in the temple. Joash’s rule was marred, however, when he sent the holy articles of God to the Aramean king, Hazael, as payment of tribute.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Joash had a blessed beginning but a horrible end. He stands as a warning to us all today. It is not enough to know God’s truth; we must obey it in the context of a *second person relationship with God*. Truth lived out in a relationship with God is what transforms a person. We cannot grow by propositional knowledge alone. God’s Word and God’s will must be internalized in a relationship with Him. It is *by a proper knowledge and proper love* relationship with the Lord that transforms duties into delights; it takes us from reluctant servants of the Lord to loving servants of the Lord. Joash’s depended upon Jehoiada rather than the Lord. Jehoiada was Joash’s prop on which the king leaned. When the prop was removed, the king fell. *Proper knowledge and proper love* of God is never mediated by another person; it is direct! It is a relationship that takes time to develop. As the believer walks with the Lord *by proper knowledge and proper love*, the Lord makes Himself increasing known to the believer. While other believers can encourage you in the Word and the Lord by reminding you of Him and His plan, one must always go straight to God for a true solution to the issues of life. Any love relationship must by nature be direct, from person to Person. A relationship with God that only exists because of another person is only a façade.

Galatians 3:1–29. This chapter consists of Paul vindication of the doctrine of justification by faith: in **verses 1-5** he points to the experience of the Galatians, in **6-9** he cites the Old Testament example of Abraham, in **10-11** he references the Mosaic Law, in **13-14** he puts forth the work of Christ, in **15-18** he notes the permanence of faith, in **19-25** he demonstrates the purpose of the Law, and in **26-39** he shows the exalted position of the believer's present position.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Paul begins his defense of justification by faith with the experience of the Galatians. These experiences included perceiving the crucified Christ (**1**) and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives (**2-5**). Because man by nature is natural, he must be raised up to the supernatural level to walk with and be empowered by God. In other words, man needs a supernatural efficient cause or power to live a supernatural life. Paul points out that they did not receive the power of the Holy Spirit by any human works. It is important for every believer to understand that the Holy Spirit is God's power to live with God *by proper knowledge and proper love*. Paul points out that is not by human works of themselves that brings the Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is a gift. He lives within the believer to empower him. The Christian is to walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25) by reading the Word, praying, and obeying God's will in a personal relationship, not by mechanical conduitism—as if God throws a power pack on the believer if the believer quotes a passage. The Holy Spirit works concurrently with the believer's 1st order desires and activities. When the believer disobeys God, then he will grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30), and if he persists in doing this, he will quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19). This does not mean that the Holy Spirit will leave him because Jesus has promised that the Spirit abides forever (John 14:16). But it does mean that the Spirit cannot give him the joy and power that he needs for daily Christian living. It means that the believer will lose any chance of having a robust faith, hope, and love, which are all required to live with God *by true knowledge and by love*.

Proverbs 7:10–20. In **verses 10-12** we see the seductress' character while in **7:13-20** we have her tactics, from flattery to talking about making “deep” love.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Like many of God's other pleasurable blessings, human sexuality is designed to be one of the most beautiful and pleasurable aspects of God's plan for His children on earth. But since Adam and Eve's fall from grace, human sexual practices have drifted from God's purposes. The believer who is not careful can become a slave to materialism or illicit sex rather than enjoy life with Christ *by knowledge and by love*. If you struggle with sexual sin, you are not alone. Even King David, a man after God's own heart, wrestled with sexual sin. The first step is truth. The truth of the Word of God is the source of guidance to avoid the ubiquitous sex traps in our age. It also informs us that God really wants us to enjoy sex in a licit, loving relationship. It is Satan who is behind the world's temptations to grab hold of sexual pleasures apart from a marriage commitment. He has plenty to throw at the believer in our culture: pornography, fornication, prostitution, homosexuality, and “friends with benefits.” Lust can blind a believer and take him down a wrong path very quickly. The only true solution is to turn away from any and all sexual temptation and turn to the Lord and His grace. Often it is just a matter of what direction one decides to

turn. The believer who walks with God *by proper knowledge and proper love* possesses the motivation to quickly and decisively turn away from sexual temptation thrown in his path by turning to the Lord. Not to turn quickly is to entertain the temptation and to entertain it is already to be drawn into its clutches. God desires for the believer to have a loving and pure sex life with his spouse, one that is not compromised by illicit sexual relationships, which by nature are not pure, loving or uniting. In sum, it comes down to being anthropocentric or Christocentric in one's basic orientation to the issues of life. It really is that simple. *Quo Vadis?*

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

Pastor Don