

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”**  
**November 5, 2016**

**1 Kings 7:1–51.** Solomon’s Houses and the Temple Furnishings.

**Mark 4:26–5:20.** Jesus calms the storm.

**Proverbs 1:28–33.** Scoffers of the Word of God.

**COMMENTS.**

**1 Kings 7:1–51.** The palace complex took almost twice as long to build as the temple. The proximity of Solomon’s house to the Lord’s house reflected the close relationship that was to exist between God and king. Included with his own palace and the palace of Pharaoh’s daughter was the costly Palace of the Forest of Lebanon with its elaborate halls (**7:1-12**). The builder, Hiram of Tyre, whose mother was a Hebrew, made the bronze furniture. The bronze work consisted of the two pillars their capitals and designs, ten lavers, and the molten sea. The gold work included the altar, table of bread, lampstands, basins, and door sockets (**7:48–50**).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** It’s difficult to calculate the cost of this building in modern currency. It isn’t enough just to know the price of the precious metal today, but we also need to know its purchasing power. Then we must calculate what Solomon paid for manpower and materials and try to express it in contemporary equivalents. When you consider that there was gold overlay on the inside walls and floors, the furniture, the doors, and the cherubim, you have no hesitation concluding that this was a very costly building. And yet all this beauty was destroyed and this wealth was confiscated when the Babylonian army captured Jerusalem and destroyed the temple (see Jer. 52). Nebuchadnezzar robbed the temple and deported the captives in stages, and eventually his men burned the city and the temple so they could get their hands on all the gold that was there. How painful it is to realize that Solomon, the man who constructed the temple, was the man who married a multitude of foreign wives and encouraged idolatry in Israel, the very sin that turned the nation away from God and brought upon them the fiery judgment of the Lord. What a waste! While it is often taught that Christ’s teaching about ‘what profit is there to a man who gains the world and loses his soul/life?’ is made with reference to unbelievers, this is not true. Christ said this to believers in the context of discipleship: Mark 8:34 *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."* Again, this was addressed to believers, not unbelievers. Don’t miss the point: Discipleship is a matter of profit and loss, a question of whether we will waste our lives or invest our lives. Note the severe warning Jesus gives us here: once we have spent our lives, we cannot buy them back! Remember, He was instructing His disciples, men who had already confessed Him as the Son of God. He was not telling them how to be saved and go to heaven, but how to

save their lives and make the most of their opportunities on earth. “Losing your soul” is the equivalent of wasting your life, missing the great opportunities God gives you to make your life count. You may “gain the whole world” and be a success in the eyes of men, and yet have nothing to show for your life when you stand before God. If that happens, though you did own the whole world, it would not be a sufficient price to give to God to buy another chance at life. Of course, no one is going to give his life for Christ unless they love Christ more than himself. And no one is going to do that apart from living in the light of *proper knowledge and proper love*.

**Mark 4:26–5:20.** In this section, Jesus and his disciples are caught in a sudden storm. The Lake of Galilee is famous for such storms, and they are very dangerous. Jesus is unworried. He stays sound asleep in the stern of the boat. In the end, the panic-stricken disciples have to wake him. Astonishingly, Jesus stands up in the boat and simply commands the wind and the sea to settle down. From being terrified of the storm, the disciples are now in awe of Jesus. Who is this, who can even control the forces of nature? In the Psalms, it was God who ‘stilled the storm to a whisper’ (Psalm 107:29).

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** How often in the trials of life are believers prone to imitate the faithless disciples and cry out, “Lord, don’t You care?” Of course, He cares! He arose and rebuked the storm, and immediately there was a great calm. But Jesus did not stop with the calming of the elements, for the greatest danger was not the wind or the waves: it was the unbelief in the hearts of the disciples. Our greatest problems are within us, not around us. This explains why Jesus gently rebuked them and called them “men of little faith.” They had heard Him teach the Word and had even seen Him perform miracles, and yet they still had no faith. It was their unbelief that caused their fear, and their fear made them question whether Jesus really cared or was in control. We must beware of “an evil heart of unbelief” (Heb. 3:12). As we have noted in our Thessalonian study, faith, hope, and love always go together. Without faith, there is neither hope nor love. We cannot love what we do not believe. Only by walking with the Lord by faith-knowledge can we walk with Him in love. Moreover, it is walking in the light of the Lord that brings light as we share in the Knower's knowledge instead of our own ignorance.

**Proverbs 1:28–33.** This warning about neglecting wisdom is continued in this section. Those who reject God's wisdom are called haters of knowledge (29) and despisers of rebuke (30), who will eat of their own fruit (31) and be destroyed (32) in contrast to those who listen to the Word of God and dwell in safety and security, fearing no evil.

**Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love.** Perhaps the easiest and most common excuse for doing wrong and falling into trouble is ignorance, that one just did not know any better. That excuse is implicitly rejected here. Wisdom is not some hidden treasure that has to be dug from the depths of the earth (compare Job 28) or the sole possession of the lonely sage sitting atop a mountain. To the contrary, Wisdom roams the streets looking for someone to instruct. The ways of right and wrong, as presented in this word of God, are open for all to read and follow. Love for the Lord always translates to love for His Wisdom (and those who bring His truth to them, like the pastor-teacher). As Christ put it, "if you love me you will keep My commandments." Lack of love for the Lord always results in mocking the Lord, His Word, and those who teach His Word. The development of a scoffing attitude to the Word of God is but a reflection of the loss of love for the Lord. As we are noting in our faith-knowledge studies, to have true faith is to have clear, confident, and undefeatable knowledge as one lives in the light and life of God Himself. As we have noted, certainty is never gained by rational processes alone. We are told that we know God and His Word by a life of love of Him (see, 1 John 4). One demonstration of lack of love for the Lord is when a believer, even if for a moment, thinks that maybe some biblical truth is not true and even ridiculous as laughs and mocks at the Christian truth. If the person really loved the Lord, and the Word and discovered (erroneously) that some aspect of Christianity was not true, he would naturally be saddened and want to check it out. The mocking of any believer at God's wisdom speaks volumes where he is with the Lord. It really is all about loving the Lord with proper knowledge and proper love for a healthy life in the light. All else is darkness, doubt, skepticism, and what amounts to a frantic search for happiness in a lost world with no anchor and absolutely no hope.

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

*Pastor Don*