

Steadfast in a Sovereign God

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Bow or Burn ♦ Daniel 3

FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

There's a well-known story of a shoe salesman's motto: "two pairs, not three." He found that customers were more likely to buy when their choice was simple.

Read Daniel 3:13-18. For these three Hebrew men, life decisions were made simple when the choice was between serving men or serving God. Read Matt. 10:28-30 & Acts 5:27-29. Jesus lived, and taught His disciples, to serve an audience of One: God alone. If we try to please others, or live just for ourselves, the "rules" are always changing. The great thing about living to please God is that His will, His standards, His truth of right/wrong never change. They are always constant. And this gives us a wonderful sense of assurance, peace, and joy.

Take time to consider in prayer with God the parts of your life and/or interactions with others where you start to please men (or self) instead of God. Change to please Him alone in life, and see if it doesn't just turn out to be to your advantage!

January 2025 Growth Goals

- ❑ Read the Book of Daniel.
- ❑ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ❑ Watch the Bible Project videos on the Book of Daniel (available on the website).
- ❑ Consider taking ten days this month to replace a small daily comfort or activity with scripture reading and prayer.

FOR CHILDREN:

Go through the "Would You Rather" sheet with your family or friends. Do you think it is easier to make a decision when there are less choices? Read Daniel 3:13-18. When it came time to decide between the King's order to worship false gods, and the worship of the One True God, these young men found the decision very easy - obey the Living God only! We may feel pressure to do things we know God doesn't like because others are doing them. Rather than trying to please so many other people, however, we can choose to please God alone. Read Acts 5:27-29. Living to please God is easier because God's will never changes. And living to please God will give us a peace & joy that never fades.

FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Daniel 3:24-25. God's normal course of action is not to remove His people from suffering and trial. Rather, God comes alongside His people; He goes through the tribulation with them. He provides strength, sustenance, and support. Read Psalm 23:4.

God was with Joseph in his imprisonment (*Gen. 39:20-21*). God was with Joshua in the struggles of leadership (*Jos. 1:9*). God was with Jehoshaphat & the people of Judah when they felt powerless before enemy nations (*2 Chron. 20:15-17*). God was with Jeremiah while he was opposed in his ministry (*Jer. 1:8, 17-19*). Christ was with Paul in the midst of his persecution for preaching the Gospel (*Acts 18:9-10*). Christ is with His disciples of all generations (*Matt. 28:20*).

You aren't promised a bypass, but you are promised the Lord's presence, always. Remember this & keep trusting!

Weekly Memory Verse:

"But even if God does not save us, we want you to know, King, that we refuse to serve your gods."

Daniel 3:18

Weekly Affirmation:

**God Is With Me
in the Fire!**

Winter Would You Rather

1. Would you rather eat something pumpkin flavored or peppermint flavored?
2. Would you rather build a snow fort or a sandcastle?
3. Would you rather have a snowball fight or make snow angels?
4. Would you rather wear a hat or earmuffs?
6. Would you rather go to the beach or to the mountains?
7. Would you rather it always be winter or always be summer?
8. Would you rather wear warm mittens or warm socks?
9. Would you rather shovel snow or rake leaves?
10. Would you rather go ice skating or rollerskating?
11. Would you rather go snowboarding or skiing?
12. Would you rather eat fudge or eat cookies?
13. Would you rather see an arctic fox or a snowy owl?
14. Would you rather have a pet reindeer or a pet penguin?

For those questions you only had to choose between two options. For the last question you will have to choose between many different options. Think about if it is easier to make a decision when there are less choices or more.

15. Which flavor of ice cream would you chose if it was the only one you could eat during winter?

Banana

Black raspberry

Cherry

Cinnamon Apple

Grape

Mango

Pumpkin

Watermelon

Bubblegum

Toffee

Butter Pecan

Mint Chocolate Chip

Coffee

Cotton candy

Dulce De Leche

Earl Grey Tea

Pistachio