

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

August 17, 2008

Daniel

Daniel, the hero from the Old Testament has from the first mention of him stood as an example of unmovable faith in the eternal God who is described in the Holy Bible. It is interesting that Daniel should have been as outstanding as he was. Daniel stands out even when compared to all of the other faithful mentioned in the whole Bible. It is interesting that he should be such a tower of faith because Daniel lived at one of the spiritually lowest periods of Hebrew history. Daniel grew to maturity during a time in Hebrew history when idolatry and other forms of ungodliness were rampant in all levels of Hebrew society which makes us ask the question, Where does a young person's faith come from? Where does a young person's initiative to take a personal stand for the truth of God's revealed will come from? Where does a young person's courage to be godly in a wicked society come from? Where does a young person's wisdom to see what is right and do it when the whole society in which they live is doing and teaching wrong come from? Daniel's spiritual success certainly did not come from following those who did and taught contrary to God's revealed will.

Daniel, as a young person was among the very first captives that God allowed the Chaldeans to carry away to Babylon. Once in Babylon Daniel and three of his peers were put into a special training program that was designed to equip them to be advisors to the king. If they succeeded in making the grade their careers were made. They would spend their lives at the top level of Babylonian society associating with the shakers and movers of the day. There was even the very real possibility that they themselves would wind up being people of great influence and wealth who enjoyed all of the very best benefits that riches and power afforded. No doubt many would have liked to be in the position that they were in.

As part of their position they were to share in the royal diet. Young Daniel insisted that they could not do that. Who put Daniel up to taking that position? Surely a young captive would not of his own volition oppose the will of the most powerful king in the world on such a trivial issue as what to eat and what to drink. How did Daniel have what it took to do what he did? Was Daniel so stupid that he did not understand that when he refused what the Chaldeans considered to be food and drink fit for their king that he was insulting not only the king, but the entire kingdom as well? What was Daniel thinking that would make him jeopardize not only his super career but also his life over an issue of eating and drinking what he chose instead of what the king chose? Whatever Daniel was thinking is what drove Daniel to become a hero. Young and old alike we all need to know what Daniel was thinking and think likewise so that we will be able to perform like champions in the little corner of the world that each of us occupies.

What Daniel was thinking was how to stay on good terms with God. God and God's word were real to Daniel. The reason food and drink was an issue with Daniel was that Daniel was familiar with the inspired Hebrew scriptures and knew what God's will was. If Daniel had not been familiar with the inspired Hebrew scriptures food and drink probably would not have been an issue with Daniel; he would have had no reason to refuse to eat and drink anything. His ignorance of the word of God would have provided Daniel sinful bliss.

But why did Daniel feel personally obligated to raise the objection? There were other Hebrews there, why didn't Daniel just let some of them take care of the problem? Why did Daniel feel that he had to be the one?

That feeling of personal responsibility to do right and to say right is the common denominator of all heroes or all kinds of all time. The proper question was, Why not Daniel? This was an opportunity for Daniel to stand for the truth. It made no difference whether or not any other would stand for the truth; this was Daniel's opportunity to stand for the truth. This was Daniel's opportunity to put God and God's revealed will ahead of personal power, promotion or even the will of the king. If Daniel did not do and say the right thing in this affair Daniel would destroy Daniel's relationship with God. This life is not about pleasing self or parents or friends or bosses, this life is about pleasing God by obeying God's revealed will which we have respected God enough to learn well.

As Daniel rose to great power and influence in Babylon he acquired enemies who carefully looked for some fault in Daniel by which they could rid themselves of him. (**Daniel 6**) A man as smart as Daniel was not likely to have been unaware of the efforts of his enemies but there was no problem for Daniel in examinations of Daniel's affairs because all of Daniel's affairs were as they should have been. His enemies could find nothing in the affairs of Daniel but what was absolutely commendable. So they decided to trap him with his religion. Knowing that Daniel prayed to God several times each day they got the king to pass a law that for a thirty day period made it a capital crime to ask any petition of any God or man but the king. Upon learning of the law old Daniel went to his house and before his open windows that faced toward Jerusalem knelt down and prayed three times a day as was his longstanding practice. Daniel could have prayed with his windows closed. Or Daniel could have prayed in a standing position as had Abraham's servant. (**Genesis 24:13**) That might make it a little less obvious to observers what Daniel was doing. Instead of making concessions Daniel behaved like a person who knew full well the folly of attempting to compromise with sin and ungodliness. Daniel behaved as one that was thoroughly tired of the ungodly nonsense with which the world was cluttered. Daniel met the sins of his enemies head-on by continuing to do right and letting there be no doubt that he was continuing to do right. Daniel's lifelong position was that there is a living God who, if He chooses, can make right win over any opposition on any given day, but who win or lose, must be served everyday all day and night wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

Daniel's willingness to stand for the right and serve God in spite of the possible cost in pain and suffering exposed the evil plotters to the king and brought about their swift destruction. If Daniel had hidden his faith in God and had been unwilling to let his godly behavior become an open issue the enemies of truth would have won. Daniel and the truth would have lost! That is God's plan.

Remember to Pray For

John Michael Siddles
Alyse Robinson
Dallis and Alma Isaacs, the parents of Sharon Nations
Lorene Pagan
Freddie Ward
David and Chessie Harwell
Donna Caldwell
Mabel Greene
Tony Tyree
Ruth Brundige
Cindy Miller
Marlene Wood
Christie Ellis
Janie Smith
Shirley Lewis
Brady Gibbons
Gail Hunter
Larry Flannery
Donnie Joseph
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Helen Stephens
Chris Handshoe
Chris and Jen Dooley
Jeffrey Howerton
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey

The Holy Bible allows us to see the world through God's eyes

The devil makes certain that all are tempted to disobey God

Many attempt to justify with reason,

Choices made by mindless desire To show the wise reason For having done the dumb thing

They tell us that there are 20,000 genes per cell. Each gene turns on and off in different sequences. At the beginning of each organism the first cells, the stem cells, are all alike but eventually all human cells come to fall into one of three categories.

1. Muscle, bone, blood
2. Gut and lung
3. Skin and neutral

Can any imagine that 20,000 genes are going to turn on and off in orderly sequences to make all of that happen by accident? And remember that the whole parade has to be up and running all at the same time or none of it will work at all. How?

GOD CREATED!

Thoughts

The Bible + a good and honest heart = a Christian

The Bible + several Christians = a church of Christ.

That is one of the powers of the Kingdom of God. **God preserves the Bible and those who believe and obey it cannot be prevented from being God's people.** People in poverty can and do obey the Holy Bible. People in riches can and do obey the Holy Bible. All with the same result, **they become Christians.** And when those Christians group together to worship God according to the teaching of the New Testament those groups of Christians become churches of Christ. **(Romans 16:16)**

That has been going on from the center to the far corners of the earth for 2000 years. Wherever the Holy Bible is believed and obeyed Christians are, and wherever faithful Christians are, churches of Christ are. It has always been so.

Because they are following the New Testament pattern churches of Christ are local self governing, self-supporting and self-propagating bodies of Christians. Each church large or small is responsible for all of its own affairs. It is not run from someplace else on earth. All churches of Christ large or small are run from heaven through the inspired word of God, the Holy Bible, and particularly the New Testament.

Each local church handles its own money, provides and maintains its own meeting place, runs its own teaching programs, examines itself by the New Testament and takes proper actions to assure its continuing purity. That is what the New Testament teaches.

Both Christians and churches of Christ are the result of people believing the words of the faithful apostles of Jesus that were written in the first century AD and are preserved for us in the New Testament. Those people are what they are because they speak where and as the Bible speaks and are silent where the Bible is silent. They are what they are because of what the New Testament says.

Over the last 2000 years their unity and uniformity has been and still is based on them obeying the New Testament. That is as Jesus prayed for it to be.

John 17: 20 *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as you, Father, [are] in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me."*

The word of God is growing in my heart when my knowledge and understanding of the word of God is day by day guiding more and more of what I do, say and think

Mind pollution is anything that is not true

Notes

Informational Meeting August 24

Mark the calendar and make plans to attend every service of our

Gospel Meeting Frank Walton November 2-7

Very often the difference between stepping stones and stumbling blocks is attention

In good works and spiritual successes see today's best as tomorrow's minimum

How unreasonable is a worldwide flood? A worldwide flood only had to cover 29% more or the Earth's surface than water now covers.

SIN IS HEADED FOR EXTINCTION

**Adam and Eve could refuse to obey God
But Adam and Eve
Could not refuse
To accept the
CONSEQUENCES
For refusing to obey God**

**When a thing is done according to a pattern it cannot be called an accident.
DNA is the pattern of life**

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**

**GOOD THINGS HAPPEN HERE
AND WE WISH
TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU**