

"But if not..."

Daniel 3

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Philippians 1:21: For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

1. _____: Vs. 1-15

A. **Defiance against _____:** Vs. 1-7

B. **Defiance against _____:** Vs. 8-12

Psalm 101:2b-3a: I will walk with integrity of heart within my house; I will not set anything before my eyes that is worthless.

C. **Defiance against _____:** Vs. 13-15

Psalm 115:3-8: Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see....Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Vs. 15: Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. **And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"**

2. _____: Vs. 16-18

A. **Dependence on God's _____:** Vs. 16-17

Vs. 16-17: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is **able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

B. **Dependence on God's _____:** Vs. 18

Vs. 18: But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

3. _____: Vs. 19-30

A. _____ **Deliverance** : Vs. 24-25:

1 Peter 4:12: Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you...

Isaiah 43:1-2: ...When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; **when you walk through fire you shall not be burned**, and the flame shall not consume you."

Matt. 28:20b: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

B. _____ **Deliverance**: Vs. 26-27

C. _____ **Deliverance**: Vs. 28-30

1 Timothy 6:13-16: I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Discussion Questions:

1. We marvel at Nebuchadnezzar's fickleness and vanity, but do we ever behave like him? Have you ever forgotten God's work in your life and pursued recognition and power?

2. The Chaldeans are the villains of this story, but have you ever been ungracious towards immigrants (the Biblical word is "stranger")? How does God want you to treat them? Look up Leviticus 19:33-34 and Matthew 25:35.

3. How have you been tempted to idolatry in our culture? What kind of pressure from others have you faced? How did you resist?

4. Have you experienced a "But if not..." moment in your life? What did it look like to trust and obey God knowing His Word, but not all the details of His providential plan for your life?

5. How has God delivered you?

6. How can we help each other be more passionate about God's glory?