

A HEART WITH GOD'S PURPOSE

DANIEL 1:1-8

Text: Daniel 1:8

(Dan 1:8 KJV) "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

Introduction:

In order for one to serve God in an effective way one must have purpose. The reason that some have so many problems in their Christian life and walk is that nothing is determined or purposed prior to the temptation.

Let me illustrate it like this:

When you are faced with a decision if your mind is not made up before hand most likely you will decide to do what is not right.

Illustrations

Ask to go to a ball game during church.

Ask to participate in something that is not Christ-like.

Ask to listen to something that is not Christ-like.

Ask to go somewhere that could be a bad example or testimony.

Ask to compromise in some area.

Daniel had made up his mind what he would do and not do in his life which ultimately elevated him to a position of high authority.

Notice with me:

1. A PURPOSEFUL HEART (DAN 1:8A)

(Dan 1:8 KJV) "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

A. Daniel convictions were in his heart.

1. He had made up his mind, and settled his convictions.
2. He had rehearsed what he was going to say and do.

B. Daniels convictions were expressed.

(Dan 1:8 KJV) "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

1. He would not do anything that would defile himself.

a. He was not going to pollute, soil, stain, or desecrate, his character of testimony.

2. A PROVING HEART (DAN 1:9-16)

(Dan 1:9 KJV) "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

A. Daniel had proven himself to the prince.

1. This was done with a purposeful heart.

B. Daniel proposed to obey God. (vss. 11-15)

(Dan 1:11-15 KJV) "Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, {12} Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us

pulse to eat, and water to drink. {13} Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. {14} So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. {15} And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat."

C. Daniels product was obedience. (vss. 14-16)

(Dan 1:14-16 KJV) "So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. {15} And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. {16} Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse."

(1 Sam 15:22 KJV) "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

1. Daniel knew to cost of disobedience.

3. A PRESERVING HEART

A. Daniels faithfulness was seen by God (Dan 10:12)

(Dan 10:12 KJV) "Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words."

B. Daniel was faithful to the end. (Dan 12:13a)

(Dan 12:13 KJV) "But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

A heart with a purpose. What is your purpose. Have you purposed in your heart? If not why not?