

Series: Stand Fast In the Lord

# WE ARE NOT CAREFUL TO ANSWER THEE DANIEL 3

Text: Daniel 3:16

## ***Daniel 3:16***

<sup>16</sup> *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, **we are not careful to answer thee** in this matter.*

Introduction:

We looked at the example of Joseph recently as he was an example of on who “Stood Fast in the Lord” even through great opposition and persecution.

Today we consider another example of three young men who too demonstrated Standing Fast in the Lord.

This passage speaks of:

Commitment

Character

Conviction

Consecration

Courage

It portrays to us fervent faith in a fiery furnace of three godly young men that obey God rather than man.

This is a powerful chapter that is relevant for us today.

We will consider Lord willing this passage both this morning and this evening.

Note:

Sermon Content:

# 1. THE CONSTRUCTION BY THE KING (VS. 1-3)

## **Daniel 3:1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. <sup>2</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. <sup>3</sup> Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold.

This idol was monstrous.

If the king's image was the figure of a man, and many believe that it was, it would be an attempt to establish "Man Worship" as opposed to worship of the true God.

Understand:

Man Worship is known as “Humanism.”

Humanism is an ideological, political, and religious belief that denies the existence of God.

The tenets of Humanism are:

- Religious Humanist regard the universe as self-existing and not created by God
- Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process. This is known as evolution.
- What is right or wrong is based on human experience and opinions, not on what the Bible says. Men can live as they please and do not need the approval or disapproval of religion because man is his own god

We consider not only the Construction by the King but secondly:

## 2. THE COMMAND FROM THE KING (VS. 4-7)

### ***Daniel 3:4-7***

*<sup>4</sup> Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, <sup>5</sup> That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: <sup>6</sup> And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. <sup>7</sup> Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*

Hundreds were invited as guests to see this image, yet, when they came, they were commanded to fall and worship it.

A large orchestra was present to play "all kinds of music" so the audience might be stirred and moved to respond to any command.

Nebuchadnezzar knew all too well, the power of music.

Music can stir and also soften the mind to receive the poison of false teaching.

The Bible has much to say about music with over 500 references.

For example:

***Ephesians 5:19***

*<sup>19</sup> Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

***Colossians 3:16***

*<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

In 1 Samuel 16 we find that David was chosen to succeed Saul.

In verse 14, we find that the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and that an evil spirit troubled him.

In verse 23, he called for music and David complied.

The Bible says that Saul was refreshed, made well, and the evil spirit departed from Saul when David played.

This chapter in 1 Samuel 16 reveals how music affects us.

Understand:

**1 Samuel 16:23**

*<sup>23</sup> And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.*

- Music Has a Physical Effect – “Saul was refreshed”
- Music Has a Spiritual Effect – “The Evil Spirit Departed”

Because music has a spiritual effect, we need to make sure that our music in church is spiritual, Christ-honoring music that makes us want to worship the Lord instead of dance in the aisles.

It's pretty sad when the church service is no different than a rock concert.

It is also sad when the church service is 90% music and 10% preaching.

We have considered the Construction of the King and the Command of the King.

Note thirdly:

### 3. THE CONSPIRACY (VS. 8-12)

#### ***Daniel 3:8-12***

*<sup>8</sup> Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. <sup>9</sup> They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. <sup>10</sup> Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: <sup>11</sup> And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. <sup>12</sup> There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

As we stated earlier this chapter speaks about three young men who would not bend, bow, or budge.

We learn from this passage that the Chaldeans were jealous of these young men and their leadership positions.

These young men were resented, and the Chaldeans looked for an opportunity to get them removed from their positions.

When the music played and these three Hebrews did not bow, they were accused by the Chaldeans.

In this chapter these Chaldeans focus was on these three young men and in chapter 6 it was on Daniel.

Understand:

Envy is a terrible sin.

You cannot be envious and happy at the same time.

Note:

***Proverbs 14:30***

*<sup>30</sup> A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.*

Understand:

Real convictions disturb.

Too many in our day seem to have opinions but few convictions.

Opinions are based on what WE think is right or wrong.

Biblical convictions, are based upon the authority of the Word of God.

We are to live our lives with biblical principles whatever the cost.

It's not always easy but it is always right.

Some have conviction, but they are not Bible-based, they are man-based or are traditions of men.

Those who hold to such convictions or beliefs eventually change because they are not biblical.

Understand:

Society changes but the Bible does not.

What was wrong two or four thousand years ago is still wrong today.

Sins such as murder, stealing, adultery, sodomy, idolatry, lying, slander, and drunkenness are still wrong today.

Illustration:

The story is told of a young man that told his boss, "I cannot work on Sunday. I must go to church."

The store began a new policy of opening on Sundays.

The boss replied, "If you won't work on Sunday, I will have to let you go.

I know also that you have a widowed mother that you are caring for.

Are you sure you want to do this?" The young man was firm.

For three weeks he looked for work.

The bank president was a friend of this boss.

He asked this boss if he knew of any prospects for a cashier in the bank.

The boss told this president of this young man who had a conviction to not work on Sunday.

The president replied, "Any man who will lose his job on the account of principles is a man that you can trust with money."

The young man was hired by the bank.

Question:

Do you have biblical convictions?

Are there certain beliefs that you have that you refuse to compromise?"

We have considered the Construction of the King, the Command of the King, and the Conspiracy of the People.

We'll consider one more thought this morning and conclude this evening.

Note lastly:

## 4. THE CONFRONTATION OF THE KING (VS. 13-16)

### **Daniel 3:13-16**

*<sup>13</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? <sup>15</sup> Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.*

The minds of the three Hebrew men were made up!

They were decisive in this matter.

They told the king, “We are not careful to answer thee.”

Their minds were already made up.

Decisiveness is making present commitments to avoid future failures.

They were committed to obeying God and did not want to fail this test of faith.

Question:

"Have you made up your mind live for Christ or do you wonder if God's way is best?"

Do you find yourself mocking or making fun of biblical principles concerning submission and separation from sinful living?"

God wants us to make up our minds to live for Him!

Back in chapter 1 we read about Daniel and these three young men's resolve.

***Daniel 1:8***

*<sup>8</sup> 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.*

Job said it this way:

**Job 13:15**

*<sup>15</sup> Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*

Understand:

Our walk with God should not be jeopardized by our circumstances.

Sadly, if people's lives are convenient and calm, they will love Jesus.

If their lives become complicated, tainted by conflicts and catastrophes, then their faith begins to wain and they wander away from the Lord, from church, from the Bible and prayer.

These men had genuine courage and faith.

Illustration:

One day two boys entered into the dentist's office.

One of the boys said, "Doc, will you pull a tooth right this minute?"

The dentist replied, "You don't need any gas or Novocain?"

The boy said, "Nope! Just one big yank!"

The doctor replied, "Sure!

That's what I call being brave and courageous.

Now show me the tooth you want pulled."

The boy turned to his little brother and said, "Come here Willard and show the Doc your tooth."

It's easy to be brave for others, but struggle sometimes to have our own courage.

Close:

These verses showed their:

- Faith In the Power of God – “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us”

They demonstrated great faith in the power of God.

Understand:

True hearted service with Faith in God's ability to meet our needs gives stability of character in the time of testing and trials.

Note only do we see their Faith in the Power of God but also their:

- Submission to the Will of God – “But if not ... we will not serve thy gods.

These young men would rather burn than turn.

Application:

No one should expect the Christian life to always be easy.

But we should never destroy our testimony for a life of ease.

We need to be willing to burn and not turn.