

November 29, 2020

The Faith of Daniel

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

The book of Daniel speaks of God blessing Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. **Daniel 1:17** says, “**Now as for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego faced a great test of faith in **Daniel 3**, when Nebuchadnezzar commanded the worship of a golden image upon hearing certain sounds. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego refused to worship this golden image, they were thrown into a fiery furnace.

Several years later, we read of a similar test of Daniel’s faith. When we reach the 6th chapter of Daniel, the kingdom no longer belongs to Nebuchadnezzar or his descendants (see **Daniel 5**). Instead, the kingdom is under the rule of the Medes and Persians, with Darius the Median serving (**Daniel 5:28-31**).

As king, Darius set one hundred twenty princes over the kingdom, and three presidents over these princes (**Daniel 6:1-2**). Daniel was the first of the three presidents, and “**was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in**

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(Continued)

him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm” (verse 3).

Daniel’s role made him envied by the other presidents and princes. They determined to “bring him down” (verse 4). Yet, they realized they could find no occasion against Daniel “**unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God**” (verse 5).

So the presidents and princes proposed to King Darius that he sign a decree that whoever “**asks a petition of any god or man for thirty days, except of [Darius], he shall be cast into the den of lions**” (verse 7). Darius, likely not realizing what he was doing (cf. verse 14), signed the decree (verse 9).

Verse 10: When Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house (now his windows were open in his room toward Jerusalem) and he kneeled on his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did before.

Daniel was thrown into the den of lions for this faithfulness (verse 16), yet his faithfulness was rewarded, as God sent His angel, who “**shut the lions’ mouths**” (verse 22), leaving Daniel unharmed.

Upon recognizing what had happened, Darius “turned the tables,” commanding

that Daniel’s *accusers* be thrown into the lions’ den (verse 24), “**and the lions had the mastery of them,**” proving that the lions had the ability to do harm so long as God did not prevent them.

While it is easy to see in hindsight that Daniel acted wisely, imagine how difficult it would have been in the moment for Daniel to continue praying to God faithfully, knowing a writing had been signed that would cause him to be cast into a lions’ den.

Though it may be unlikely for any of us to face this exact circumstance, we *do* encounter many instances in which walking by faith is difficult. Rather than walking by sight and rationalizing according to worldly wisdom, we must, like Daniel, allow God’s will to guide us.

The Christian’s faith can be strengthened by the faith of Daniel (cf. **Heb. 11:33**). Our lives may at times be envied, as Daniel’s was. We may be mistreated, as Daniel was. Yet, we must remember that ultimately, faith will be rewarded. The temporal deliverance of Daniel from the lions’ mouths is a “foretaste” of the eternal deliverance from hell that will be fully realized on the Day of Judgment by those who, like Daniel, choose to walk by faith.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

"Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no occasions for stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God; even as I also please all people in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, even as I also am of Christ."

– 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

"Having been made perfect, He became to all of those who obey Him the author of eternal salvation," – Hebrews 5:9

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Ken & Chris F
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)
Carlyle (Hip)
Heather's Friend, Courtney
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Mike D (COVID recovery)
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger & Family
Mary S (Pancreatic Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

November 29 – Song of Sol. 4-5; Galatians 3
November 30 – Song of Sol. 6-8; Galatians 4
December 1 – Isaiah 1-2; Galatians 5
December 2 – Isaiah 3-4; Galatians 6
December 3 – Isaiah 5-6; Ephesians 1
December 4 – Isaiah 7-8; Ephesians 2
December 5 – Isaiah 9-10; Ephesians 3

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word."

– Psalm 119:16

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Bible Study: Dan H

Worship: Larry

Evening:

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Assignments

Sunday, December 6, 2020

Reading: Dan D

Announcements: Steve

Table: Harold

Serve: Dave

John

Clean Building

Misty (Nov) / Paula (Dec)

Prepare Communion

Donna (Nov) / Paula (Dec)

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Invitation:

Upcoming Reminders

**Sunday afternoon services and Wednesday*

evening Bible classes are temporarily

suspended, due to effects of COVID

Anniversaries

December 6 – Steve & Misty

Birthdays

December 3 – Rowena

December 13 – Donna B

December 21 – Linda

December 21 – Christie

December 22 – Jailyn

December 22 – Lauren