

“Purposed Christians”

Text: Daniel 1:3-8

Introduction:

- Of all the Bible characters, I believe that Daniel is one of the better known.
- When one hears the name of Daniel what often comes to mind is the lion den and how God delivered him from the mouth of the lion.
- One thinks of Daniel as a man of great character and willing to take a stand for the things of God.
- We even have a hymn entitled, “Dare to be Daniel”.
- A man who even though his very life was in danger for praying continued to pray even if the sentence for praying was death.
- I believed the key that made Daniel such a great man of God is found in V. 8 of our text.
- “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.”
- Daniel despite his circumstances.
 - He and the southern kingdom of Judah had been taken into captivity by the Babylon.
 - He was living in a godless country and given a heathen name.
- Regardless of all of this Daniel **purposed in his heart**, not defile himself with the diet of the heathen.
- The word “**purposed**” means resolved, having formed a design or resolution.
- Daniel had resolved or made up his mind from the very beginning despite his circumstances that he would remain separated unto the Lord God Almighty.
- Daniel did not care about the cost to himself and his family.
- How much suffering and persecution would come his way as a result of making this decision.
- Daniel was resolved to remain separate unto the Lord no matter what may come his way.
- Notice this resolution that he made was not an intellectual one (did not take place in head) but one took place in the heart where it counts the most.
- It is the same with salvation.
- For someone to be saved it has to be a decision that takes place in the heart and not the head.

- The Bible reminds of this in Romans 10:9-10.
- “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt **believe in thine heart** that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness**; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- This morning, I want us to apply what we have learned from Daniel to help us to be **“Purposed Christians”**

I. As Christians We Should Purpose or Resolve in Our Hearts To Serve One Master

- Many Christians today are trying to serve two master the Lord and the world at the same time.
- Jesus warned against this –
 - **Matthew 6:24** – “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
 - These types of Christians are doubled and James warns us about being double minded.
 - Being double minded brings instability.
 - James says in **James 1:8** - “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
 - The double minded Christian has not resolved who he is going to serve on a full time basis.
 - As a result they never grow in the things of the Lord and remain carnal and milking sucking babes in Christ.
 - Just like the bunch at Corinth – causing division and strife in the church.

II. As Christians We Should Purpose or Resolve in Our Hearts To Be Separated Unto One Master

- We should resolve in our hearts that there is nothing in this world for us to love.
- **1 John 2:15-16**, reminds us of this – “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”
- In fact the Apostle reminds us one of the reasons the Lord Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins.

- **Galatians 1:4** – “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this **present evil world**, according to the will of God and our Father:”
- The Bible clearly teaches separation from –
 - The Unsaved – **See 2 Corinthians 6:14-18**
 - The Carnal Christian – **See Romans 16:17;**
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:6**
- Paul the Apostle reminds us what we are to be separated unto.
 - **Romans 1:1** – “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, **separated unto the gospel of God,**”
- My dear friends as Christians we are to be separated unto the one Master, the only Master, the Lord Jesus Christ for the purpose the preaching the gospel.
- The power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

III. As Christians We Should Purpose or Resolve in Our Hearts To Be Secure In One Master

- Many Christians today believe that they get so out of fellowship with God and lose their salvation.
- They believe that they have no eternal security.
- They spend all of their Christian life worrying about if they are saved or not.
- The problem is that they do not rightly divide the Word of Truth.
- The Bible teaches that in this current age of grace once a person is saved then they cannot lose their salvation.
- A Christian can certainly break his fellowship with God through sin but not his sonship with God or standing with God.
- A Christian who has fallen into sin will fall under the chastening hand of the Lord according to **Hebrews 12:5-11**.
- The chastening experience may seem unpleasant at the time but it showing that you are a son of God and its purpose is to get you to see your sin and repent of it and restore fellowship with the Lord.
- **See 1 John 1:9**
- If one is not secure about their salvation then they just cannot serve the Lord the way that they should.
- The reason being is that they are constantly dealing with issue of their eternal security.
- Their whole focus is on this one issue.
- The evidence is just too overwhelming that once a person is saved that they cannot lose their salvation.
- I.E. – You cannot be unborn again.
 - It would be like trying to unscramble a egg

- **Scripture:**
 - **John 10:28-29**
 - **Romans 8:38-39**
 - **Ephesians 4:30**
 - **Philippians 1:6**
 - **Jude 24**
 - **1 John 5:11-13**
 - **John 3:16**
 - **2 Timothy 1:12**

Conclusion

- We have seen this morning three things as Christians that we need to purpose or resolve in our hearts if we are to keep the faith, fight the good fight and finish the course.
 - As Christians We Should Purpose or Resolve in Our Hearts To Serve One Master
 - As Christians We Should Purpose or Resolve in Our Hearts To Be Separated Unto One Master
 - As Christians We Should Purpose or Resolve in Our Hearts To Be Secure In One Master