

THE WEEK OF
March 29th, 2010



Jesus
vs.
The American Idolater
Part 2
Daniel 3:26-28

Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fires. And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them. Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

Daniel 3:26-28

It's not an exaggeration to say that we are confronted with idolatry every single day. Turn on the TV and watch one segment of commercials. Drive your car down any surface street or freeway and look at the billboards. Listen to the radio or flip through the pages of a magazine. The allure of everyday idols is pervasive. But I doubt that any of us have ever been confronted with such a clear challenge to the pure worship of God as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. It's an amazing, miraculous and vivid story of holiness in the lives of these three young Jewish men. And putting ourselves in their shoes we would like to think that our decision would be the same as theirs; and maybe it would. It may well be the case that situations like theirs, of such obvious significance, are actually easier to remain faithful in than the common challenges we face daily. It was a cultural expectation and norm that was pressing against their lives and tempting them to forsake the one true God and worship the false god. We have just the same kind of temptations today. The false gods of our day are many, all culturally expected and even encouraged. The gods of sport, money, power, fame and pleasure, like the gold image in Babylon, have been set up and the demands of the culture are, "Worship!" Our testimony and stand should be the same as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The culture should say of us what Nebuchadnezzar said of them, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego...that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God!"

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Mon: *A Cultural Norm:* Daniel 3:1-7 "...the king made an image of gold..." Daniel 3:1-7

Tue: *A Serious Stand:* Daniel 3:8-18 "...we do not serve your gods..."

Wed: *The Consequence and God's Faithfulness:* Daniel 3:19-25 "...[he] cast them into the fiery furnace..."

Thu: *The Testimony:* Daniel 3:26-30 "...there is no other God who can deliver like this..."

Fri: Read Daniel Chapter 3 again while answering the questions below.

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

For each day of the week you have a section of Daniel 3 to read. In each section there are current analogs that exist. For example, in the section for Monday, the idol is set up and the culture demands worship. What are some specific cultural idols you experience today? Next, what is the stand that we must take against these like the three young men did in our reading for Tuesday? Etc...

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):