

COMMUNITY GROUPS

living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Date: 3/5/23

Sermon: Living in the Light of Judgement

Text: Daniel 5

Speaker: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Jason Finke

In this week's passage, Daniel describes the end of the Babylonian king, Belshazzar's life. Belshazzar had a great feast for a thousand of his nobles. During the feast he ordered that the gold and silver vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem be brought in, and they proceeded to drink wine from them and praised false gods. At that time, the fingers of a man's hand appeared and began writing on the wall, which greatly alarmed Belshazzar. He called for the wise men of Babylon to read and interpret the writing, but none of them could. The queen mother came and told Belshazzar to summon Daniel to read and interpret the writing.

Daniel was brought in and reminded Belshazzar of how God humbled Nebuchadnezzar by making him like a wild beast until he recognized that God rules the realm of mankind. Although Belshazzar knew this, he exalted himself against God. Daniel then proceeded to read the inscription (MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN) and interpret it. God revealed that He was putting an end to Belshazzar's kingdom and giving it to the Medes and Persians. That same night, Belshazzar was slain and Darius the Mede became king.

The main point of the sermon was living in light of judgment. Ted organized the sermon around four points.

- 1. Practice Humility**
- 2. Live With A Knowledge Of Eternity**
- 3. Be Teachable**
- 4. Live Like Jesus Is Our Reward**

Discussion

1. In the sermon, Ted stated that all have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. **Read Psalm 14:1-3 & Romans 3:23.** How do these passages indicate that all have been found wanting? Why is our being found wanting a problem? How does it cause us to appreciate the cross?
2. Ted also noted that in light of judgment, we should practice humility. How can a need for humility be seen in the account of Belshazzar's life? **Read Proverbs 16:18 & James 4:6.** How do these passages describe the consequences of pride (as opposed to humility)? Why is it necessary for the believer to practice humility?
3. Furthermore, Ted discussed how death (and eternity) could come at any moment. In Belshazzar's case, it came that very night. **Read Psalm 144:4.** How does the shortness of life affect the way we live? Why is it so urgent for believers to share the gospel?
4. In the sermon, Ted also noted that in light of judgment, we need to be teachable. Daniel 5:22 notes that Belshazzar knew about God's humbling of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4), but failed to learn from it. **Read Proverbs 27:6 & Proverbs 10:17.** In light of these verses, how should we respond to correction from a fellow believer? Why is it important to be teachable?
5. Finally, Ted stated that we should live like Jesus is our reward. **Read Philippians 3:7-11.** What does this passage teach us about Paul's view of Jesus? What does it look like to live like Jesus is our reward?