

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“Faith and Civil Disobedience”

“Behind Enemy Lines” – Pt. 4

Daniel 3:1-30 & Selected

The Faith Needed for Civil Disobedience...

I. Refuses to bow to the ungodly requests of the civil government!

“And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?” Vs. 15c

See Exodus 20:1-6

II. Refuses to compromise no matter the pressure to conform to the demands of the civil government!

“But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” Vs. 15b

Why were the three Hebrew men able to stand firm?

1. They knew what the Scriptures taught.

“...but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action.” Daniel 11:32b

“How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?” Psalm 82:2

2. They knew who their true King was.

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter.” Vs. 16b

3.They knew their faith was real.

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.” Vs. 17

True Faith that Stands Firm...

- **Refuses to presume on God.**
- **Refuses to bargain with God.**
- **Simply believes God.**

Believing God Regardless of the Heat...

- **Is the blessed assurance that He is able to respond.**
- **Is the supreme confidence that He will respond.**
- **Rests in sweet submission even if He does not.**

4.They knew their death was acceptable.

“But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” Vs. 18

See Hebrews 11:35-40

III. Joyfully accepts the presence of Jesus when standing firm against the civil government!

“He answered and said, ‘But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.’” Vs. 25

“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”

Isaiah 43:1b-3a