



THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

Realize That God Loves You.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
(John 3:16).

The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory to God.” (Romans 3:23).

God’s Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

The Good News Is That Christ Paid for Our Sins.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

We Must Personally Pray and Receive Christ by Faith as Our Personal Saviour.

The Bible Says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13).

Choosing the Right Friends

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Memory Verse- Proverbs 13:20

*“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise:
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”*

*Your
Thoughts*

Choosing who you will hang out with and become close friends with may be one of the most important decisions you will make. You are now or soon will be who your friends are. Why? Your friends and acquaintances will have a powerful influence on your life. These people will either influence your life in a positive or a negative way.

Daniel is taken from his home town and brought to the city of Babylon. Here Daniel is faced with a different culture, views, and beliefs. The sights and sounds of this new city would be appealing. Daniel is enrolled in Babylon State University, the local college in town. He will meet and be around many new people.

This is a critical moment in Daniel’s life and future. Who Daniel chooses to become friends with and spend time around will have a strong influence on his life. These decisions will have a strong bearing upon Daniel’s path in life. Another way you stay grounded and grow in your faith in an increasing secular society and while attending college is by choosing your friends wisely. Read Daniel 1:3-15.

Think about it:

*You are now
or soon will be who
your friends are.*

Your
Thoughts

Daniel Chooses Three Friends

Daniel is meeting many new people in Babylon and on campus at school. He could have decided to hang out with anyone he wanted to. Daniel chooses three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to surround himself with.

These were young men from his home town. Did Daniel know these guys prior? We do not know for sure but we can assume they knew something of each other. We learn in Daniel 1:3 that these four young men are from the same tribe. These were young men from the tribe of Judah that had a similar upbringing, values, and beliefs. They were all hard workers applying themselves in school. They shared a commonality, their faith.

Think about it:

Jesus has twelve disciples, but chose three to be closest with.

Choose wisely one to three people you will become close friends with. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. You will be around many people. You may have many acquaintances and many friends or followers on social media. You cannot be close friends with them all. Daniel, Jesus,

Paul, and Job all had three close friends. Elijah and David both had one.

How Daniel Chose His Friends

Daniel started with a commonality, his faith. You will attract who you are. Daniel gets to know these young men and tries them. This is very important. This is where you learn who they really are and where they are at. These stood firm with him in his request not to defile himself with the king's meat. They shared the same purpose of heart, convictions, and understanding of God's Word. Read Proverbs 18:24.

These were also Daniel's go-to prayer warriors. Read Daniel 2:14-19. These were the young that

would not compromise in bowing to an idol but were willing to die for their faith. Read Daniel 3:1-30.

What are some ways you can try friends? Ask specific questions about their beliefs and convictions. Do not ever assume! Watch how they practice their beliefs. Look and listen to see their responses in times of need and in how they treat others. Is their faith real? What do they listen to and watch? Who do they hang around? As you do this you will learn who to grow closer with and who to distance yourself from and become acquaintances with. Read Proverbs 22:24-25.

The Effects of Friends on Our Lives

You are now or soon will be who your friends are. Friendships can be one of the most powerful influences in our lives. These four young men stayed strong in a very secular society and while attending college. These four young men did not become a statistic of dropping out of church or putting their faith on a shelf. They did not change their beliefs or compromise in tough situations. There is strength in numbers especially when those numbers are like-minded.

Think About it:

Friendships can be one of the most powerful influences in our lives.

Read II Samuel 13:1-15. The Bible says that Amnon had a friend named Jonadab. Here we have an awful situation. Amnon has a crush on his step-sister Tamar. His conscience keeps him from pursuing her. He consults with his friend Jonadab, who the Bible says is a very subtle man or sly and cunning. Amnon takes his friend's advice which leads to him raping Tamar. Afterwards he hates her and she remained unmarried. Amnon's brother Absalom now hates Amnon and ends up killing him. Absalom disappears for three years. All this occurred because Amnon had a friend named Jonadab!

Read Proverbs 13:20. Who are your one to three close friends? Do you really know them. Are they a positive or a negative influence on your life? Satan has distractors looking to be your friend.

Your
Thoughts