

**Today, God wants to give us 5 tools to enable us to attain spiritual goals for His glory.**

1. Intro

- a. Do you have spiritual goals?
- b. I'll bet you can think of some earthly goals you're shooting for?
  - i. New house or car
  - ii. New job or to pay off a debt

2. Vs 1

- a. See Daniel / revelation comparison timeline
- b. The king of Babylon is a picture of Satan drawing all lords unto himself and then being overthrown for good.

3. Vs 2-4

- a. Gotten from the Temple in Jerusalem
- b. This is the height of pride to mock the true God

4. Vs 5-6

- a. Persia has already won over the hearts of many in the world by this time.
- b. Vs 6 – This fulfills prophecy from Isa 45:1
- c. Persia is now at the gates of Babylon and the king of Babylon is trying to boost morale with this party.
- d. **1<sup>st</sup> Tool – Don't let entertainment take the place of evangelism and edification toward believers.**
  - i. **Interesting that unbelievers try to boost morale by letting go of thinking and just partying and pleasure.**

**1. Luk 21:34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

ii. **Christians boost morale by being strengthened in the inner man by the renewing of the mind.**

5. Vs 7

a. Third Ruler – Nabonidus was the retired king living in Arabia at this time.

6. Vs 8-12

a. Daniel is about 84 years old by this time and has a great reputation.

b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Tool – Be the expert on Christianity in your environment**

c. Are you known as the expert in something? I want to hear your examples.

i. Debbie Rice was the expert at keeping pilots safe in the skies. Wasn't valued very much until 9/11.

ii. What are your examples?

iii. **Daniel was the expert at knowing God!**

d. **If we stand out as believers, then the world will know where to go in times of need.**

i. How many examples do we have of this from the prophets? (Jer 21:1-2, 42:1-3)

e. Our job as believers is to draw others to Christ and to be a consistent example to them.

i. Sometimes Christians say, "I'm afraid of pushing people away from Christ."

ii. What are you going to do, push them into Hell #2? They're already headed to hell.

- f. We're don't want to brag on ourselves...just be ready to answer any question about the hope that lies within us.

## 7. Vs 13-17

- a. Pastor Chuck Smith story of wanting a new car:
  - i. Never had one before
  - ii. Gave false reasons to God for wanting it: "I'll take people to church in it."
  - iii. FIRST DAY OF HAVING IT: got a big scratch in the side of it.
  - iv. He had this goal for a LONG TIME....and it was gone just so quickly.
- b. **3<sup>rd</sup> Tool – Don't let temporary rewards change what you're striving for**
- c. How empty are these gifts that the king is offering, for the kingdom shall be taken away from him this very night.
- d. Daniel was motivated by the opportunity to show God's greatness to the world around him.
- e. **What are we striving so hard for? (Mark 8:36)**
  - i. **Position at work, bigger house, more games to play?**
  - ii. **OR is it: opportunities to witness, opportunities to encourage a fellow believer, opportunities to show god's greatness?**
  - iii. **We need to evaluate our lives and say, "What is the spiritual value in this thing I'm doing"?**

## 8. Vs 18-23

- a. Vs 22 – He's lifted in pride, EVEN THOUGH he had the example of Nebu, the former king, to have learned from.
  - i. "Samuel pushing on the stairs" example
  - ii. We have ALL the stories in the Bible for our examples.
- b. **Why serve false gods that cannot help?**

- i. **They can't hear or help.**
- ii. **But the very God that sustains everything about you, you disregard!**
- c. **4<sup>th</sup> Tool – Dwell on the absolute vanity of obtaining earthly goals**
  - i. **Can serving the false god of money REALLY help and save us?**
    - 1. **My MBNA experience has showed me just as many millionaires that were broke, as \$30,000-airees that were broke.**
  - ii. **Can serving the false god of power/prestige/position REALLY help and save us?**
    - 1. **See how many famous comedians, like Jim Carey, are divorced and on anti-depressants.**
    - 2. **See how many famous athletes overdose on drugs for the vanity that they find at the "top".**
    - 3. **See how many CEOs of large companies lose it all in a day!**

## 9. Vs 24- 29

- a. Mene – numbered or appointed time
  - i. This is the appointed time, no sooner, no later.
- b. Tekel – You don't weight what you should, false weight.
  - i. Compared to God's glory (glory means weightiness)
- c. Upharsin –
  - i. U is the symbol for the word "and".
  - ii. Pharsin is the singular of Peres from verse 28
  - iii. Meaning divided
- d. **Why was this the appointed time for the kingdom to be divided, what were they lacking?**
  - i. **They were still striving for temporary rewards.**

- ii. **Remember verse 23, they didn't glorify the Lord.**
  - 1. **Can serving the true God of eternity, who holds our very breath, avail to help and save us!!! YES! Then glorify Him with our life and days.**
- e. **This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Tool – Dwell on the necessity to glorify God with everything that we touch**

10. Vs 30-31

- a. This Darius the Mede served under king Cyrus
- b. How did the Medo-Persian conquer?
  - i. It was all prophesied
  - ii. Read Isa 44:27 – 45:6
- c. God wants to glorify him by recognizing his authority over everything that we want to do.
  - i. He wants us to be able to say about everything in our lives, "Yes, God is pleased with this thing being a part of my life."

11. Conclusion

- a. Now we can go refine our spiritual goals in this short life by using these 5 tools:
  - i. Don't let **entertainment** take the place of **evangelism** and **edification** toward believers.
  - ii. Be the **expert** on Christianity in your environment
  - iii. **Don't let temporary rewards change** what you're striving for
  - iv. Dwell on the absolute **vanity** of obtaining **earthly goals**
  - v. Dwell on **the necessity to glorify God** with everything that we touch