

# HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE?

## Commitment

Sunday, July 24, 2016

### I. Introduction

**Daniel 3:1:**

*King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.*

**Daniel 3:2:**

*He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.*

**Daniel 3:8-12:**

*At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! You have issued a decree, O king, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace. But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – who pay no attention to you, O king. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.*

- When everyone in Babylon did what was culturally relevant by bowing to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did what was right before their God.
- "Spirit of Babylon" – Humankind's attempt to usurp the authority of God.

**Revelation 18:1-5:**

*After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. With a mighty voice he shouted: "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons, and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her luxuries."*

*Then I heard another voice from heaven say:*

*"Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes."*

## II. Commitment

- There are two commitments we must hold true to so we too can thrive in our culture. These two commitments will transform our lives and help us to answer the question: “How Should We Then Live?”

### #1: A Commitment to Philippians 2

#### **Philippians 2:3-5:**

*Do nothing out of vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.*

#### **Daniel 3:13-15:**

*Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king, and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up? Now when you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good. But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?”*

#### **Daniel 3:16-18:**

*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”*

- Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself. It’s thinking of yourself less.
- A. How Should We Then Live?
1. Be humble in heart
  2. Be humble in deed.
  3. Be humble in word.
- B. When it comes to humility, Jesus is our standard.

*“Our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”*

#### **Philippians 2:5-8**

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*

## #2: A Commitment to be ALL IN

### **Daniel 3:24-27**

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly O king." He said, "Look, I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.*

- A. Complete commitment to Christ cannot be built on the day of crisis.
- B. Our commitment cannot be conditional.

### **Mark 12:30:**

*"Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart and with ALL your soul and with ALL your mind and with ALL your strength."*

- C. To be "All IN" our love and obedience to God involves one's entire life:
  - 1. Heart
  - 2. Soul
  - 3. Mind
  - 4. Strength

### A commitment to Philippians 2

*"Lord, make me childlike. Deliver me from the urge to compete with another for place or prestige or position. Forgive me for thinking of myself. Help me to forget myself and find my true peace in beholding Thee. I humble myself before Thee. Lay upon me Thy easy yoke of self-forgetfulness that through it I may find rest." –A.W. Tozer*

### A commitment to be ALL IN

*"The religion of Christ is not a tidbit after one's bread, on the contrary, it is the bread or it is nothing. People should at least understand and concede this if they call themselves Christians." -Dietrich Bonhoeffer*