

Committed

Walking with Jesus in a Post-Christian Generation

Identity

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Series Thread: To live a God-honoring life in a culture that does not always honor God, we start with keeping our commitment.

Daniel 1:1-2 (God is in control)

Message Thread: Daniel knew he was NOT here to be ABANDONED, but rather to learn to walk closer to God.

First Test – Daniel’s Commitment: become a fierce follower of God.

Second Test – To keep a commitment, I have to anchor deep into an IDENTITY.

Nebuchadnezzar

- (V2) I OWN you.
- (V3-4) Cared only about the outward appearance.
- (V5) Intentional redefining of truth/morality.
- (V5) The demon gods PROVIDE for you.
- (V7) Rename you, to shape you in my image.

Yahweh

- You belong with me.
- Cares about the heart/inward devotion.
- Standard of truth/morality.
- I am your Provider.
- My name for you is My HOPE for you.

Nebuchadnezzar cared only for the outward appearance, but God cares about your heart and inner devotion.

- When are you caring for your heart?
- When is your inner devotion being refined?

Nebuchadnezzar redefined truth and morality to suit him; God's standard of truth and morality is unchanging.

- Daniel's normal daily experience with people and cultures' currents fought to redefine for him the boundary lines of morality.
- One of the most influential pieces of our IDENTITY is our MORALITY.

It was the teachings of Jesus and His New Testament Church that declared for the first time:

"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you." (Galatians 3:26–29)

Nebuchadnezzar said the demon gods provided; God says, "I am your Provider."

- Are you struggling with God being your Provider?
- Daniel knew this was a FOUNDATIONAL decision that he would be building on for the rest of his life.

"For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me— the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!" (Jeremiah 2:13)

- Do you believe God is your Provider?
- What could be used as evidence to prove that you look to God to be your Provider?
- What can you do to exercise your faith for God being your Provider?
- Are you grateful for His provision?

Daniel knew who he was...

- The one being helped, not hurt.
- The one being rescued, not rejected.
- The one in this Babylonian world, but not of this world.

Application:

- We are the readers; we are the committed ONES challenged to anchor into an Identity.
- For the reader – WHO is in CONTROL?
- For the reader – WHO is worthy of your FAITH?
- For the reader – What are you struggling to exercise your FAITH for?

Challenge:

- Are you committed?
- Do you know who you are?
- Who do you find your identity with?

CHECK OUT THESE FREE ONLINE RESOURCES:

STUDIES BY DOUG BRITTON:

Watch Out for Cultural Contamination

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/cultural-contamination

You Have a Purpose in Life

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/you-have-purpose

You are an Ambassador

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/ambassador

SUMMIT UP DEVOTIONALS:

<https://heightschurchonline.com/daily-devotionals/>