

LIVING FOR GOD IN A GODLESS SOCIETY

(Daniel 6:10)

I. A person of purpose (Daniel 1:8).

A. As a young person, Daniel was forcibly removed from his homeland, made a eunuch, and chosen to be trained in captivity.

1. He must have been exemplary to be chosen in the first place.
2. Notice the description of the young men who were to be chosen for this training (Daniel 1:3-4).

B. Upon his arrival in Babylon, a diet was laid out for him, and all the other Jewish captives.

1. We know the dietary restrictions placed on Jews under the Law of Moses.
2. Certain things were considered unclean and therefore, were not to be eaten.

C. Notice what Daniel 1:8 tells us about Daniel.

D. Daniel, and his three friends, purposed in their hearts to not be defiled before God in a strange land.

1. This was a land that knew nothing of God.
2. They served various false gods, and even would make an idol of the king himself (Daniel 3).

E. This was something that Daniel purposefully chose to do though, it would have been easy to compromise.

1. He could have said that he would be killed if he didn't.
2. He could have gone along with most of the other captives who did what they were told when it came to the food.
3. He could have said that God didn't care about him any more so why should he care about God.
4. A bunch of excuses could have been made to sin.

F. Daniel knew God's word and he was not going to go against it.

G. We are faced with many situations in life where it would be easy to compromise some doctrine or teaching of Christ.

1. Young people are faced with these temptations every day.
2. Older people as well.
3. But notice that Daniel was a young man himself.
4. One writer said he would have been in his early teens at this time.
5. He had to be pretty young because he served in the court of four different kings over his lifespan.

H. Daniel and his three friends made up their minds that they were not going to sin against God even though it would have been so easy to do.

1. Listen to the initial response of the steward whom Daniel asked to have a change in diet (Daniel 1:10).
2. He'll put me to death was the answer.
3. Daniel, despite that answer, did not give in and asked to be tested for 10 days.

I. How easy would it have been to say, well I asked and he said no so I had to do it?

1. Since Daniel had made up his mind, he would not give up easily.
2. Thankfully, the steward agreed to that and it proved to be wise because Daniel and his three friends were healthier than the others after the trial

period.

J. We must be people who purpose to not be polluted by the world around us (James 1:27).

1. This takes a knowledge of God's word.

2. It also takes forethought.

3. In the heat of the moment, we will make the wrong decision if we have not thought ahead and purposed to do right.

K. The time in which we now live is going to get more evil before it gets better.

L. We must purpose now that we will do right no matter what, or else we will give in to this world and be lost.

II. A person of prayer.

A. Throughout the book of Daniel, we see Daniel going to God in prayer.

B. In chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar is recorded as having a dream and demanding that his astrologers tell him the dream and the interpretation.

1. When the captain of the guard comes for Daniel, Daniel asked for time.

2. Notice Daniel 2:17-18.

3. These men took it to God and God gave them their request.

4. Now listen to what Daniel prayed: Daniel 2:20-23.

C. When you come to chapter 6, Darius, a Medo-Persian king, is in charge and has set Daniel as one of three presidents, and in reality, had Daniel over the other two presidents.

1. The men were jealous and began to conspire against Daniel.

2. Thankfully, there was nothing scandalous or sinful in Daniel's life that could be used against him (Daniel 6:4).

3. The only thing they could come up with was to use his devotion to God against him (Daniel 6:5).

4. Daniel did not allow that to stop him (Daniel 6:10).

5. We know what happened next.

D. Another instance that shows Daniel as a person of prayer is found in Daniel 9.

1. Daniel had been studying God's word, specifically Jeremiah, and realized that the captivity was going to be 70 years and that the 70 years was soon to be fulfilled.

2. Listen to his prayer beginning in Daniel 9:3-19.

3. His prayer is described for us Daniel 9:20.

E. You and I are to let our requests be made known unto God (Philippians 4:6).

F. Jesus gave several parables about prayer and persistence in prayer.

1. Daniel is an example to us.

2. He even prayed when it could have cost him his life.

G. In a world gone mad, we must rely on God in prayer as Daniel did.

III. A person of performance.

A. When you read the book of Daniel, you should be impressed by the way Daniel always did what was right no matter the situation.

B. One writer I came across made the point that only good is said about Daniel.

C. When pressed to defile himself with unclean food, Daniel performed God's commands.

D. When his life was threatened, he prayed and went in to Nebuchadnezzar and interpreted the dream.

E. Notice what occurs in Daniel 4.

1. This chapter is interesting because it seems to be written by Nebuchadnezzar.
2. He had another dream.
3. Again, no one but Daniel could interpret it.
4. Daniel tells him the dream is from God and that the king will be punished.
5. Think of courage that took.
6. But notice what Daniel told the king (Daniel 4:27).
7. Daniel is rebuking a king who has shown he has a terrible temper.
8. Daniel did what was right.

F. Another example is found in Daniel 5..

1. What Daniel told Belshazzar is amazing (Daniel 5:17-28).

G. Daniel 6 contains the account of Daniel praying in the face of sure punishment.

H. Daniel sets for us an example of being a doer and not a hearer only.

I. Daniel gave God the glory for his being able to do what he did, but he went and did it.

J. Great things happen when Christians perform the commands of God.

K. One writer put it this way: When the Lord's people serve Him sacrificially and humbly, the Savior is praised, saints' lives are enriched, and lost souls are drawn closer to the Master.