

## "A Question of Values"

An in-depth Study of the Book of Daniel

Subject: "God's View of Idolatry"

A study of Daniel 3 and a consideration of the price to pay for worshipping God alone.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10th, 1989

1. The normal behaviour of a christian to a civil power is submission. It is a question of a proper balance concerning ownership. (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-20; Matthew 22: 19-22; Matthew 21:33-41).
2. Loyalty to the Lord Jesus does not mean campaigning with arms to overthrow Government. (Matthew 26:51-55; John 18:36).
3. There come times when believers must disobey the civil power for conscience sake. The reasons for such a situation are given in Acts 4:19; 5:29. Because of obeying God rather than men millions of believers have died down through the centuries.
4. The image of gold that Nebuchadnezzar set up was but an outward form signifying the state (Daniel 1:15; "My" and "The Image" are synonymous). It was a case of the civil power trying to get control over the loyalty of subjects which was due only to God. Notice Nebuchadnezzar used music (Daniel 1:5, 10, 15).
5. The courageous response of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego;
  - (a) They felt they did not need to give a defence in the matter. (Daniel 1:16)
  - (b) They knew that belief in a sovereign God did not mean that things would turn out their way.
6. God did not save the three young men from suffering. Did He? It came before they went into the fire. Sooner or later we all have to face the decision: God's will or ours? Abraham and Job faced the very same decision. To chose anything above God is idolatry.
7. In the furnace letting go all that was perishable brought them the discovery of that which was imperishable.

"The fire did burn something on those young men. It burnt the bonds that bound them and set them to walk freely. (Daniel 1:24-25) So are all God's trials designed to do. They are designed to free us from things that would shackle us by holding a place in our affection and loyalty that only God himself should hold. We show what kind of a God He is by our preparedness to sacrifice for Him."

David Gooding

