

TUESDAY NIGHT

at the
Crescent

"A Question of Values"

An in-depth Study of the Book of Daniel

Subject: "God's View of Education"

A study of Daniel 1 and the truth that your mind matters

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1989

1. Values are very important in the book of Daniel;
 - (a) There were golden vessels in the House of the Lord (Chapter 1).
 - (b) Empires were symbolised by gold, silver, brass and iron (Chapter 2).
 - (c) Nebuchadnezzar's image was a golden image (Chapter 3).
 - (d) Babylon was built to the splendor of Nebuchadnezzar's majesty and his own value of himself (Chapter 4).
 - (e) Belshazzar reckoned the supreme value was having a good time and pleasing oneself (Chapter 5).
2. The laws of the God of Israel clashed with the laws of the god Marduk at the University of Bablylon;
 - (a) Hebrews were not allowed to eat unclean animals (Leviticus 11: 41-44); This was a symbol of the fact that some ways of satisfying our physical, moral and spiritual appetites are unclean.
 - (b) Hebrews were not allowed to eat unclean animals because this helped to make a very clear distinction between Jew and Gentile.
 - (c) Hebrews were forbidden to eat blood because it was a ceremonial token (Leviticus 17); The symbol of the value of redemption was sacred.
 - (d) Hebrews were forbidden to eat food offered to idols because it offended God. (See Revelation 2:14).
3. God's view of education is not anti-intellectual. Our minds matter. Why? Because;
 - (a) We were created to think (Psalm 32:9; Psalm 73:22; Isaiah 1:18).
 - (b) Bible truth is revealed truth (Romans 1:18-21; Matthew 11:25; Job 38:3; 40:7).
 - (c) Redemption pre-supposes a renewed mind (1Corinthians 1:30).
 - (d) The judgement of God upon us is based upon our response to His revelation (Jeremiah 7:25-26; 11:4-8; 25:3-4; 32:33; 44:4-5; 1 Corinthians 2:6; 3:1-2; Hebrews 5:11; 6:3; Ephesians 1:7-19; 3:14-19; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-10).
 - (e) The mind is vital in worship, faith, in the quest for holiness, in guidance, and in the preaching of the gospel and pastoral ministry.
4. God's view of education is that it should be based not on an arrogant idolatry but on a healthy morality.

"The christian mind has succumbed to the secular drift with a degree of weakness and nervelessness unmatched in christian history. It is difficult to do justice in words to the complete loss of intellectual morale in the 20th century church. There is still, of course, a christian ethic, a christian practice, and a christian spirituality... but as a thinking being, the modern christian has succumbed to secularization." (Harry Blamires).

