

TUESDAY NIGHT

at the
Crescent

"A Question of Values"

An in-depth Study of the Book of Daniel

Subject: "God's View of Pleasure"

A study of Daniel 5 which contains God's way of what is ultimately valuable.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 1989

1. This chapter is the climax of all that the first section of Daniel has been saying about values;
(a) The writer has not forgotten the golden vessels (Chapter 1: 2 ; 5:2).
(b) It brings Daniel's experience under the Babylonian empire to an end.
2. It is very important to realise that Belshazzar knew how God had dealt with Nebuchadnezzar and yet had purposely ignored it (5: 22-23). The vessels of gold and silver were dedicated and set apart exclusively for the use and glory of Jehovah. They were saying that God is the supreme value. Belshazzar by drinking from them was saying that he was the supreme value. He was saying that life's supreme end was his pleasure, alone.
3. It is very significant that Belshazzar could not read the writing of God's hand upon the plaster of the wall. He had seen the terms Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin thousands of times. People in those days did not have money but they weighed out gold and silver on a pair of scales. The phase was a phrase of weights they meant Minor, Minor, Shekel and Half Shekel. Very often when unconverted people come towards the end after a life of pleasing themselves and turn to the Scriptures they simply cannot understand what they are reading. A Christian at the end of life understands John 3:16 perfectly, to the unconverted it simply does not make sense. Belshazzar found that even a simple thing when written by God is undecipherable after he had resisted the calling of the Holy Spirit to his soul.
4. Money, even in the form of weighed gold and silver is man's way of measuring values. Give the same amount of money to a child, to a teenager or to an older person and how they spend it will show you how that values in life change. There are eternal values, though which will never change. The value of the precious blood of Christ will never lose its power. The value of the Word of God is eternal. The value of the people of God is inestimable.
5. God simply cannot have short weight in His Heaven. Belshazzar's life was weighed and was found wanting and he perished.
6. We should never underestimate the power of one godly life. Daniel's godly life persisted in a climate of idolatry, immorality and treason. The Lord was able to use him mightily to influence and confront a pagan empire. God wants to do the same with His people today but they must be committed to serve Him regardless of the pressures to do otherwise. Are you willing to be His spokesperson? Then submit yourself completely to Him and seek to obey Him unreservedly.

"An old conductor stood at a gate in a railroad station on a bitterly cold night, leisurely punching tickets while restless passengers stamped their feet and grumbled. "You are an unpopular man tonight, conductor", said one as he passed the gate. The old conductor replied. "There is only one man with whom I am interested in being in good standing, and that is the Superintendent of this railroad"."

