

Empire Church of the Brethren  
Sunday Service Sermons

23 June 2024

Believe in God, He will see you through.

Wouldn't it be nice if when we give our lives to God he made sure every minute of the rest of our life was without pain or trouble?

But he does not promise that.

He promises to be with us through whatever comes our way.

Text: "So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God." *Dan. 6:23.*

We are in *Daniel 6* today.

Daniel has a new king in his captivity but this King is no different than the ones before him.

Daniel is now a leader over an area of the kingdom.

Daniel did such a good job that the king was considering putting him over the entire kingdom.

The others did not like this so they conspired against Daniel.

They could find no fault in Daniel so they used his faithfulness to his God against him.

Once again the king is flattered to put himself first and greatly punish anyone who does not bow down before him.

This time it is anyone who prays to any other god except the king should be thrown into the lion's den to be torn apart.

King Darius put this decree in writing.

Daniel continued praying to God three times a day with his head pointed toward Jerusalem.

So, once again the king is forced to punish Daniel for his obedience to his God.

The king has to throw Daniel into the lion's den and the door is sealed and the king has a troubled night because he appreciated Daniel.

The next morning the king hurried to see if Daniel survived the night with the lions.

Listen to the king's words to see if Daniel is still alive. "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "O king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

The king was overjoyed and Daniel was lifted from the den with not a scratch on him because he trusted in his God.

Then the accusers of Daniel were thrown into the lion's den with their wives and children and they were overpowered and their bones were crushed.

Including their wives and children was a bit cruel.

According to the customs of the times, doing so wiped these men out of history.

No living loved ones or children to live on after them.

Then the king made another decree.

His decree stated that in every part of his kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

And he included the reason.

"For he is a living God and he endures forever his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.  
Daniel is portrayed as a great and nearly faultless man in Scripture.  
With each of his kings over him he attains prominence and position.  
He goes from one empire to another but is always seen as a man who produces good fruit.  
He is given positions of power and responsibility by the kings over him.  
But envy and jealousy come upon the other leaders and they conspire to find fault with Daniel so that they can bring him down before the king.  
But they find no actual fault so they scheme to bring him down.  
They appeal to the pride and ego-centeredness of the king, this time it is king Darius, to make it so Daniel cannot obey and will be put to death and gone.  
The king does not consider what this will do to his most trusted servant and decrees that no one will pray to any god other than the king.  
Once signed by the king it cannot be altered and no exceptions can be made.  
Love of self and an exalted opinion of our own importance causes us to do strange and foolish things.  
Pride causes us to think more highly of ourselves than we ought.  
Steadfast in Christ puts us in a position to stand firm.  
Daniel was steadfast in his God so he was not intimidated by the decree.  
He opened his window and bowed before the Lord God Almighty as he always did.  
He knew he had been singled out to be killed for his faith.  
And he knew that God had the power to save him once again if it fulfilled God's will for his life.  
Daniel continued his usual custom of praying three times a day in his private devotions.  
When the king realized that he had been tricked into having to destroy Daniel he was very upset.  
Daniel was a most loyal servant and whatever he did prospered.  
People who have a good relationship with God make good employees and wise employers know they are valuable assets to the company.  
Once a young man was told by his employer that he must work on a Sunday morning.  
He refused, insisting he went to God's house for worship on Sunday mornings.  
In rage and hate, the boss fired him.  
Later the employer was having dinner with another businessman and was asked, "Do you know of a good man whom I could put to work in my company? I need one who is trustworthy in every way".  
He replied, "Yes, I do," and gave him the young man's name.  
The business man replied, "But I thought you fired him several weeks ago." He said, "Yes, I did, but let me tell you why."  
He gave the reason and said, "I guess I have too much pride to hire him back, but I can recommend him to you completely."  
Darius was also caught like this employer.  
He was trapped by his own decree and thus cast Daniel into the den of lions.  
The king did want to deliver Daniel but could find no way out of the trap set for Daniel by those who hated him.  
The king slept little during the night.  
He arose early and hurried to the den.  
He shouted down to Daniel to see if he survived the night.  
Daniel was alive and unhurt.  
He had been protected by the God to whom he had been faithful.  
Because of his faithfulness, Daniel was personally saved from death; even more, the influence of this event caused Darius to issue a decree throughout his empire that the God of Daniel is the living God and steadfast forever and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.  
This episode in the life of Daniel concludes with Daniel prospering in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.  
None of us ever knows how great our influence is and how much effect we have on others by the way we live.  
A college president once said to a group of ministerial students, "Do you know when you will preach your greatest sermon? It will not be when you stand in the pulpit some Sunday morning

and the sanctuary is packed.

You will preach your greatest sermon when you walk down the street of the town where you serve, and someone at a distance will point to you and say to the person with him, That man is our preacher. He's a good man. He not only preaches the gospel, he lives it.

This is what being a Christian is, and we should never forget it.

Trust God.

He will work things out, either by taking the burden from us or by giving us the strength to bear it.

For God is with us always and forever more.