

Turn Your Eyes To Heaven

March 25, 2018

Pastor Michael T. Sawicki

Message Notes:
Aldersgate Church



The Daniel Dilemma

How to Stand Firm & Love Well in a
Culture of Compromise

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!” “I tell you,” Jesus replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”
Luke 19:39-40 (NIV)

Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.
Daniel 6:3-4 (NIV)

Thriving In The Lion’s Den

1. Focus on The Sovereignty Of God.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Daniel 6:10 (NIV)

Prayer Vigil – 8pm, March 29 – 10am, March 30

2. Inhale a lifestyle of Belief.

...Daniel resolved not to defile himself... Daniel 1:8

...{Daniel} urged them {his friends} to plead for mercy from the God of Heaven... Daniel 2:18

...{Daniel’s friends} replied, “...we do not need to defend ourselves...if we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us...but even if he does not...we will not serve your gods... Daniel 3:16-18

...{Daniel said} “...accept my advice: Renounce your sins... Daniel 4:27

...Daniel answered... “you may keep your gifts...and give your rewards to someone else...” Daniel 5:17

3. Exhale a confident Trust.

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.” Daniel 6:21-22 (NIV)

Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: “May you prosper greatly! “I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. For he is the 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.” Daniel 6:25-27 (NIV)