

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

June, 2014

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. VI.06

Be Careful? What You Answer Thine Accuser?

May the hand of the Lord be mightily upon me and strengthen me for that which lies before me that I shall not falter; may it be so for **us**, for the ministry to which we are called, O Lord. I believe when this happens, the Word of the Lord will go forth in might and power to accomplish that to which the Lord has called us. And we **will not be careful what we answer our accuser**. When we face the enemy, when the power of the Lord God Almighty comes upon us, let us recall the three Hebrew children and how they understood, they knew, that there is power in the Name of Jesus to speak forth the truth of God in Christ Jesus for His glory. They were **not careful** what they answered their accuser (Dan 3). They did **not** weigh the consequences.

How many of you have the courage in the midst of the fiery furnace to say, "I am not careful to answer thee, O King Nebuchadnezzar, in this matter. I will not deny my Lord by worshiping and bowing down to your gods and/or to the image before which you have commanded all to bow?"

Let us recall what happened to Jeremiah who was thrown into the pit for speaking forth the Word of the Lord (Jer 38.1-6). He was not careful to answer his accuser. He suffered much for walking in obedience to the Lord God to speak what the Lord gave him to give to the king.

Remember Ezekiel (3.4-7) and how the Lord told him that he was to speak forth the truth of God in Christ Jesus though he would be rejected, though the people would not hear what he had to say – anymore than they heard any of the other prophets.

People reject the Lord and His Word, but all too often it feels like we, God's vessels, are rejected. Remember Samuel and what the Lord told him in I Samuel 8.7, "...they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me..."

Satan comes in through his ministers to put fear into you and tell you to "Be careful what you answer thine accuser. Do not offend anyone. Do not stand for the Lord God of Israel; He understands that you might suffer."

These three Hebrew children were **not careful** what they answered their accuser. They did **not** weigh the consequences. **They knew they had heard from the Lord God of Israel**.

When the truth is spoken, people often go into a rage as in Daniel 3.19. We will suffer. Are you and I ready? What will it take to make us ready for The Day of the Lord, that great and awful day? What will it take for us **not to be careful what we answer our accuser**? Oh, I need more and more of Jesus in me. I need more and more of His Word in me that I shall know I have heard from the Lord when that time comes and that I shall have His strength to take me through that time and to respond, as in Daniel 3.18.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up**.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The Word of the Lord in II Corinthians 11.12-15 makes it clear that Satan has ministers; there are always Satan's ministers who look so good.

But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we.

For such *[are]* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore *[it is]* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Daniel 3.8 and 12 tells us of those who set out to destroy these vessels committed to God by going to the king to report Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego for not worshiping the false gods and bowing down to them.

Now think with me as you read Daniel 3.12. If they, the accusers, had been bowing down and worshiping the false gods, themselves, they would not have taken notice that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down and worship the false gods. There are always those in the "churches," the "church-goers" and those hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage) – I dare say Satan's ministers – who will always be ready to report you to the "enemy" for not bowing down and worshiping their god(s).

Hear the three Hebrew children in Daniel 3.16-18:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, **we *[are]* not careful to answer thee in this matter.** If it be *[so]*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *[us]* out of thine hand, O king.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that **we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.**

The king then has them thrown into the fiery furnace that he commanded be made seven times hotter than for other times. I do not know what seven times hotter is; I agree with my late husband: "Hot is hot!" The king's command to make the furnace seven times hotter shows forth the heat of his anger when those of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus are not afraid to stand for their King, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Christ Jesus, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Notice that those who threw them into the fiery furnace were burned alive and died just trying to throw the three Hebrew children into the furnace. Can you imagine?

The world has taught people, "church-goers," and those hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum, to live a goodly life. Satan has taken his teaching into the "churches;" and the "church-goers" and they cannot be differentiated from the world, Satan's followers – all because they have become his followers.

They are all around us, in the churches, hiding behind the behind the pulpit while standing on a pulpitum, our neighbors, the leaders of this once strong nation in Christ Jesus. People have been deceived because the Word of the Lord has not been preached and taught for a very long time in most churches. People have chosen not to read the Bible. How many do I hear say, "I have a devotional book that I read every day." "I have a verse that comes up on my computer." "I have my own church literature." "I have a . . ." There is no regard, no hunger, no love for the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible. Many are choosing what they want to hear and are walking in their own willful way.

People have listened to and heard Satan through his ministers. Satan's ministers and his "churches" far exceed, in number, those of Jesus Christ – but Satan has no power; and the day is drawing nigh when you shall see the work of the Lord God Almighty in all his wrath as he comes against those who have profaned Him.

We must be in the Word of God to know Him, to know His ways, and to know His heart, His will. We must be in the Word of God, the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and the written Word, that we might know how we are to live, that we are to be separate from the world. If you have received a call from the Lord, it is first and foremost a call to live for Him, then to serve Him in the capacity of His choosing.

Hear the Word of the Lord that you might be strengthened for these days, that you shall, like the three Hebrew children, **not take care what to answer the enemy**. How many of us are willing to walk blindly in obedience to the Lord God? How many of us are willing to boldly say, "Our God is able"? Hear the three children. They said more than "Our God is able." They said, "Our God **whom we serve** is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace."

They make it clear they **serve** their God. They **live** for Him. They have surrendered their wills to Him. But notice they go on to say, "He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king." Are you bold enough to say those words publicly, speaking forth your faith in Jesus Christ, trusting Him – come what may? Are you willing to take the ridicule that shall come at a time like this knowing that many people are waiting for your demise as they stand with the enemy?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego spoke forth the truth of the only living God – not caring what the world thought or what the king thought. They knew that they knew the Lord God and that they could trust Him and Him alone.

Let us go to verse 18: **But IF not**. "But, if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." That is faith. That is trust – trusting that if you go to your death in the *fiery furnace*, your God, the only living God, is with you and has called you; He will bring you through it all; His grace is sufficient. Look at the apostles who knew such trust as they went to the *fiery furnace*; the Lord God gave them strength to come through it all. Ten of the disciples died a martyr's death because of their love for Jesus Christ.