

## *On-Line Sermon Notes*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERIES</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
09/18/16	Resolve	Draw the Line	Daniel 1	Fred Hennes

### RESOLVE

- We are no longer a Christian nation
- 10 commandments banished
- Prayers = thoughts & moment of silence
- Easter = spring break
- Merry Christmas = Happy Holidays

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36a

- Heroes of faith in Hebrew 11 were called foreigners & strangers
- Heaven is our home
- Q: How do we live in a hostile (non-Christian) environment?

### Draw the Line (Daniel 1)

- Explore how Daniel lived in a foreign culture
- Daniel's character - forged by the resolve to be like Christ

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

- Judah practiced idolatry, neglected Sabbath day, Sabbath year
- God's covenant under the law → blessings & curses
- Now came under Gentile rule / Spoils were taken

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—

4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

- Hostages - Educational plan to assimilate into a new culture

5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

- Luxury & excess. Indulgences

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

- Yes to new language / learning literature & culture / new names
- NO to royal food & wine ← the drew a line (RESOLVE)

- God prohibited food prepared by Gentiles & types of food
- Sacrificed to idols
- Wine not diluted (strong drink)

9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. 2 Chronicles 16:9*

10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. → He knew God's ways were highest & best

13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."

14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

- The results = God's blessing upon them

17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

- From age 15 to 83 → a long life

We need to Draw a Line

- OK → insurance / savings acct / entertained by sports / own a home
- NOT OK → become like the world in things opposing God's will
- Area's that have slipped ... neglect the gospel / alcohol

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Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:18

- We are not under the law – laws can be broken
- We are under grace – grace can be abused
- Sexual morality – pornography, fornication, approve homosexuality
- God created sex, authored sex...beautiful design for man & woman committed to each other in marriage

Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 1 Peter 2:16

- Worship gatherings are low priorities.

- Preempted by exhaustion, work, sports, pleasure
- Our idea that we don't need the organized church
- But who organized it? God!

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, Hebrews 10:24-25a

#### RESOLVE

- Daniel & friends resolved to live lives pleasing to God
- Pathway is not greater effort! → We are saved by grace, we grow by grace
- Pathway is surrender.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2