

How To Enjoy Success Without Compromise **A study of Daniel**

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Bible tells of many godly men & women worthy of emulation Joseph is very similar to Daniel Gen 39:1-4; 21-23
- B. Daniel obtained preeminence and power in his lifetime:
 - 1. Started out preeminent among Israel Dan 1:3-6
 - 2. Gained preeminence in Babylon Dan 1:17-20
 - 3. Given power over all of Babylon Dan 2:48-49; 5:29
 - 4. Power over Medo-Persian empire Dan 6:1-3,28
- C. How did Daniel reach positions of power and influence without compromising his position as a godly man?
- D. A close look at Daniel reveals his secret, and shows how we too can be successful without selling our souls

DISCUSSION:

I. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE

- A. Purposed in his heart (feelings, will, intellect) Dan 1:8
 - 1. Young boy (probably a teenager) in strange land, faced with challenge to violate God's law by eating king's food
 - 2. Despite youth & pressure to conform, he "purposed in his heart" to uphold law of God, no matter cost
 - 3. Because he put God first, God granted him favor in sight of others Dan 1:9
- B. Christian must purpose (word used of giving 2Cor 9:7)
 - 1. No respect for one with no direction in their lives
 - 2. Strong sense of purpose brings respect & admiration
 - 3. Purpose of Christian "cleave" Acts 11:21-23 put God first Matt 6:33
 - 4. This guarantees God's favor and will likely gain us favor in the eyes of those around us
- C. Be like Daniel - have purpose – begins when young, it's never too early to seek first God's kingdom

II. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

- A. He refused to compromise his convictions
 - 1. As young man refused to eat king's meat or drink his wine Dan 1:8
 - 2. As old man refused gifts of Belshazzar Dan 5:13-17
 - 3. Under threat of persecution refused to obey decree of Darius Dan 6:10
- B. God wants people of principle Psa 15:1-5
 - 1. Outwardly we may be ridiculed, but inwardly people wish they had the same intestinal fortitude
 - 2. When we need to trust & depend on someone to carry out assigned task, who do we turn to?

- C. Society in great need of people with principle. Those who demonstrate by example the value of being led by "principle" rather than by "price", are not only highly valued by God but also by their fellow man.

III. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY

- A. His opponents could find no fault
 - 1. Faultless in managing business affairs Dan 6:1-4
 - 2. Explains rise to positions of responsibility and power
 - 3. His purity in business related to overall purpose to please God first, and that he could be trusted
- B. Christian must maintain purity of conduct 1Jhn 3:3
 - 1. Whether young or old 1Tim 4:12; Tit 2:6-8
 - 2. Whether slave or free Tit 2:9-10
- C. People who maintain purity in dealings with others often given positions of responsibility and privilege, because they can be trusted to use them wisely

IV. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER

- A. Glimpse of his "prayer life" (as we refer to it) Dan 6:10
 - 1. He knelt in prayer, a demonstration of his humility
 - 2. Three times daily, shows his dependence on God
 - 3. Gave thanks in midst of persecution, shows his gratitude, and had not lost sight of God's blessings
 - 4. Prayers a "custom since early days" showing his persistence and faithfulness in his service to God
 - 5. "Custom" to pray so diligently helped him remain a man of purpose, principle and purity, despite his rise to power and preeminence over the empire?
- B. Christians would do well to follow Daniel's example
 - 1. We should pray often 1Thes 5:17-18; Col 4:2
 - 2. If efforts to live purposeful, principled, and pure lives are not what they should be, could an undisciplined "prayer life" be the reason?
 - 3. Will we "Dare To Be A Daniel" in regards to prayer?

CONCLUSION

- A. There is a false assumption that to "get ahead" in world one must conform to the sinful practices of the world
- B. But even today many Christians demonstrate that when one "dares to be a Daniel" they can succeed in affairs of men without selling their souls to the world
- C. Be like Daniel" by becoming a person of: PURPOSE - PRINCIPLE - PURITY - PRAYER?

by Mark A. Copeland revised by JLH