

DANIEL: WINDOWS OPEN TOWARD JERUSALEM

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: Daniel 6:6-15. From Roy H. Enoch (07-25-1993).
- B. We need to study Bible characters who were faithful to God.
 - 1. The NT writers frequently used the OT stories as examples (Rom. 15:4). Paul used the examples of the children of Israel in the wilderness (1Cor. 10:1-13).
 - 2. We will study five men who were servants.
 - a. The first two of these were from the OT: Noah and Daniel.
 - b. We want to study of one incident in the life of Daniel that we can apply to our service and worship in the Lord's church today.
- C. Daniel's attitude was of trust and complete dedication.
 - 1. It was not one of defiance (he did not kneel outdoors).
 - 2. It was not one of cowardice (he did not hide).
 - 3. He continued in his normal pattern, "as was his custom since early days."
 - a. The easiest way to live is according to principle by habit.
 - b. Without principles, we have to weigh the popularity of each circumstance.
 - c. Good habits based God's word make good conduct easier and more consistent.
- D. Our study is how Daniel's "windows open toward Jerusalem, " an example for us today.
 - 1. We should have a habit of having our windows open toward spiritual Jerusalem, the source of God's will.
 - 2. We should have the habit of studying God's word as our guide rather than concern for political or social correctness.

I. "DANIEL HAD "HIS WINDOWS OPEN TOWARD JERUSALEM."

- A. His prayers and faith was not toward Babylon.
 - 1. To pray to Darius was politically correct this month.
 - 2. It was the law of the land.
 - 3. Severe penalties were imposed.
 - 4. He was in exile in a foreign country.
 - 5. He was in high office and could lose his position as well as his life.
 - 6. He was a very old man, probably near 90.
- B. His prayers were not toward the King's palace.
 - 1. The king had shown favor to him and made him 1 of 3 rulers over the entire kingdom.
 - 2. The king now asked that respect and devotion be paid him for a month.
 - 3. Many would put their trust in the government w/such favor.
- C. But Daniel had more faith in the God of heaven than in the present earthly king, and "his windows were open toward Jerusalem.
 - 1. It was the center of God's worship w/the temple.
 - 2. It was the source of God's word.
 - 3. It was referred to as the city of God.
- D. Similarly, men today should refuse to open the windows of their souls to the world.
 - 1. To Paris for fashions.
 - 2. To Communism for politics.
 - 3. To New York for financial news.
 - 4. To Washington or Springfield for government support.
- E. Let them open the windows of their souls to Jerusalem.
 - 1. No longer to physical Jerusalem, the rejected city in Palestine of whom Jesus said (Mt. 23:37-39).
 - 2. The apostle Paul said of fleshly Israel (Rom. 10:1-3).
 - 3. Paul had explained to the Romans the difference between a Jew according to the flesh and a

spiritual Jew.

4. Spiritual Jerusalem or spiritual Jews are the Lord's church (Rom. 2:28-29).
 - a. Spiritual circumcision is described in Col. 2:11-12.
5. Jesus told the apostles to stay in Jerusalem until they received the revelation of the HS to preach the gospel unto the whole world.
6. We go back to Jerusalem spiritually when we go to the NT for God's will for the church rather than the doctrines and commandments of men.

II. DANIEL WAS FAITHFUL.

- A. Without regard to personal enemies.
 1. Many were jealous of his power and position.
 2. They could find no fault with his work (Dan. 6:5).
- B. Without regard to human legislation.
 1. Those jealous of Daniel tricked the king into making a law that conflicted with Daniel's religion.
 2. Daniel put God first regardless of the penalty of death. To have done otherwise would have meant spiritual death.
- C. Without regard to personal danger.
 1. The penalty for worshipping anyone but the king during the next 30 days was to be thrown into the lion's den.
 2. No exceptions could be made even by the king.
 3. Daniel continued to pray three times a day "as was his custom since early days."
- D. Without regard for certain death.

III. DANIEL'S FAITH WAS REWARDED.

- A. God heard his prayer and answered it (Dan. 6:10).
- B. His enemies saw his faithfulness (Dan. 6:4-5).
- C. The king reluctantly executed the penalty (Dan. 6:14-16).
- D. The king rejoiced when Daniel was safe (Dan. 6:20-23).

IV. THE PURPOSE OF GOD WAS ADVANCED GLORIOUSLY BY DANIEL'S RESCUE.

- A. The king punished Daniel's accusers (Dan. 6:24).
- B. The king issued an edict (Dan. 6:25-28).
- C. It was probable an important factor contributing to the Israelites receiving their freedom to return to Jerusalem soon after this.

CONCLUION.

- A. We receive many good lessons by studying the lives of faithful men of God.
- B. Daniel is an example in many ways as one who overcome many hardships through faithful devotion to God.
- C. We often do not understand how God can bless us with "the odds against us" from the worldly point of view.
- D. Faith doesn't have to understand, but only to see God's will.
- E. Let us focus on God's word and being faithful to it.