

I. INTRODUCTION.

-  A. Scripture text: **Daniel 5:25-31.**
"Now this is the inscription that was written out: 'MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.' [26] "This is the interpretation of the message: 'MENE'-- God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. [27] "TEKEL'-- you have been weighed on the scales and found deficient. [28] "'PERES'-- your kingdom has been divided and given over to the Medes and Persians." [29] Then Belshazzar gave orders, and they clothed Daniel with purple and put a necklace of gold around his neck, and issued a proclamation concerning him that he now had authority as the third ruler in the kingdom. [30] That same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. [31] So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.
- B. Belshazzar, the Babylonian king, received some bad news from the hand of God.
-  C. The writing on the wall said, "Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin." When translated means,
"God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it."
"You have been weighed on the scale and found deficient."
"Your kingdom has been divided and given over the Medes and the Persians."
- D. The very night that Belshazzar received this news he was killed, and Darius the Mede received the Babylonian empire.

II. "TEKEL."

- A. The particular emphasis of this lesson is to see that the works (life) of Babylon as personified in Belshazzar had been morally weighed by God and found to be lacking in His sight.
- B. We know that scales are very important in business and science. They make comparisons that are valuable and necessary to conduct business. We want the scales to be true.
-  C. The concept of weighing in a scale is found in the OT:
1. Do be careful of what you say, God will weigh everything in His scales (1Sam. 2:3).
"Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.
 2. Job feels as if his words and sin are heavier than the sea itself (Job 6:1-3; 31:6).
(Job 6:1-3) Then Job answered, [2] "Oh that my vexation were actually weighed, And laid in the balances together with my iniquity! [3] "For then it would be heavier than the sand of the seas, Therefore my words have been rash.
(Job 31:6) Let Him weigh me with accurate scales, And let God know my integrity.
 3. Only God has the true weights to know men's motives behind their actions (Prov. 16:2,11).
(Prov 16:2) All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.
(Prov 16:11) A just balance and scales belong to the LORD; All the weights of the bag are His concern.
- D. The 'balance' of our lesson will be about correctly weighing our lives and motives.

III. WEIGHING THE OBJECTIVE THINGS IN THE BALANCE.

- A. See 2Cor. 6:14-16.
Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? [15] Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? [16] Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.
-  B. Notice the following dichotomies that must be weighed:
-  1. Righteousness.....Lawlessness.
(Law keeping.) (Law avoiding, breaking.)
-  2. Light.....Darkness.
(Exposed, innocent.) (Secret, shamefully covered.)
-  3. Christ.....Belial.
(Son of God, Messiah.) (Synonym for Satan.)

- 4. BelieverUnbeliever.
(Inner conviction.) (An infidel, worldly.)
 - 5. Temple of God.....Idols.
(True worship.) (False worship.)
- C. This list might be easy, but the next one is a little more difficult.

IV. WEIGHING THE SUBJECTIVE THINGS IN THE BALANCE.

- A. This list of things is not to put one against the other as one being sinful and the other being godly. Rather this list should make you think about your decisions made on a daily basis.
- B. Notice the following things that must be weighed:
 - 1. Time (Eph. 5:15,16).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, [16] making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
 - 2. Money (1Tim. 6:10,11).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. [11] But flee from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.
 - 3. Talents & Abilities (1Pet. 4:12).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;
 - 4. Possessions (Mt. 16:26).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
“For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
 - 5. Attitudes (Phil. 2:5).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
 - 6. Family (Eph. 5:22,25; 6:1).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
*(Eph 5:22) Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
(Eph 5:25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;
(Eph 6:1) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*
 - 7. Involvement (Rom. 12:10,13).
Spiritual things.....“My” things.
*(Rom 12:10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
(Rom 12:13) contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Don't allow yourself to be weighed on the scales and found wanting!
- B. Balance your life in each area giving the proper preference to spiritual things.
- C. One day, God will come to you (final day, day of judgment) and weigh your life in His balance. Will you be found wanting?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.