

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Daniel 3:1-30**.
- B. There are many lessons to be drawn from the lives of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Tonight we want to draw four, and one very important one.

I. THE STORY OF SHADRACH, MESHACH, & ABED-NEGO.

- A. The king's decree (Dan. 3:1-7).
- B. The refusal to bow by S,M, & A (Dan. 3:8-12).
- C. Nebuchadnezzar orders S,M, & A to bow before the image (Dan. 3:13-15).
- D. S,M, & A reply (Dan. 3:16-18). See II.
- E. The fiery furnace (Dan. 3:19-25).
- F. Nebuchadnezzar orders all to serve God; S,M, & A prosper (Dan. 3:26-30).

II. THE REPLY TO THE KING (LESSONS FROM THE STORY).

- A. Their reputation was enough of an answer (3:16):
 - 1. 2Corinthians 2:14-16.
 - 2. Even a bad reputation can be used for good when one changes.
 - 3. 1Thessalonians 1:6-8.
 - 4. Building a good reputation comes by hard, consistent work.
- B. God will deliver the faithful out of the hand of calamity (3:17):
 - 1. 1Corinthians 10:13.
 - 2. Job was richer after his trials than he was before them (Job 42:10,12).
 - 3. God's power is made perfect in weakness (2Cor. 12:9).
- C. Skip 3:18, go to 3:29, when God is glorified His servants will prosper (3:29).
 - 1. Matthew 6:33.
 - 2. With God all obstacles are moveable.
 - 3. We need to see our problems as opportunities for good.
- D. The most important lesson of the story: we serve God no matter what (3:18):
 - 1. Never be a fair-weather friend (saint) of Jesus.
 - 2. Job, Jesus, and Paul all had great problems, but all still served,
 - 3. Remember God's providence is always working (Rom. 8:28).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Four lessons from this story are:
 - 1. We need to have a reputation that is good.
 - 2. God will deliver the faithful from calamity.
 - 3. God will always be glorified and His servants will prosper.
 - 4. We must have the attitude that we will serve God no matter what.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.