

Two distinct ways of looking at life-

1.) Can be viewed in terms of what occurs, what we call HISTORY
-the who, the when, the where component to World Events/Activities

2.) However, God's people are aware there is a "WHY" component to World Events...Theological- reflects the purposes of GOD

Example:

- Man is active in history:
"Nebuchadnezzar ... came to Jerusalem and besieged it"
- Yet God is dynamic in the same historical events:
"And the Lord gave Jehoiakim ... into his hand"

GOD's exist in a dynamic relationship w/us and our world...

"Then the Lord intervened" - perhaps the single most common action describing him in Scripture, in one form or another.

Clearly stated principle running through Scripture: God HAS NOT WALKED AWAY FROM HIS WORLD - Jn 3:16

- (1) Daniel, ("My Judge is El [God]") – Belteshazzar (He belongs to Bel)
- (2) Hananiah, ("Yahweh has shown grace")- Shadrach (The Command of Aku)
- (3) Mishael, ("Who is what God is?") - Meshach (Who is what Aku is?)
- (4) Azariah, ("Yahweh has helped") Abednego (servant of Nebo)

Living for God lies in the way we think

We're not to be conformed to the world- How do we avoid it?

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1

THIS IS WHERE THE TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD BEGINS

Model- belong to Christ/under intense pressure/temptation-

- *Daniel's decisive-* "Daniel purposed in his heart (v8)
- *Daniel's humility-* responded in a spirit of humility/respect. He requested permission of the chief of the eunuchs (v8)
- *Daniel's expectation-* evident from his request, he believes God will honor his desire to be faithful

Living for God produces a spirit of confidence that God will act

If Daniel had been worried about pleasing people and being "popular," he would have yielded to the pressures and failed the Lord ...he ignored the faces and he...

...did what God expected of him, which is precisely what He expects of you/*NEVER back down!*

Daniel's witness had a lasting impact on the lives of others.

It is not where you are that ultimately matters in the kingdom of God, it is what you are.