**Daniel 3. STAND FIRM IN THE FIRE!**

**10/30/22**

***6****In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all* ***kinds of trials****.****7****These have come so that the* ***proven genuineness of your faith****—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*  *`* 1 Peter 1:7-8

* **A FAITH THAT’S TESTED IS A FAITH THAT CAN BE TRUSTED.**

*King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, ninety feet high and nine feet wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.* Daniel 3:1

***2****He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.****3****So the… officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it.* Daniel 3:2-3

***5****As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.****6****Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”* Daniel 3:5-6

***7****Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.* ***8****At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews...* ***10****Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound… must fall down and worship the image of gold,****11****and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.****12****But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”* Daniel 3:7-12

***13****Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. So these men were brought before the king,****14****and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true…?* Daniel 3:13-15

Romans 5:6-8

**THREE QUALITIES OF STANDING IN FAITH…**

* **FAITH OBEYS GOD INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING MAN.**

***16****Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.* Daniel 3:16

* **FAITH BELIEVES IN SPITE OF WHAT IT SEES.**

***17****If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver usfrom Your Majesty’s hand.* Daniel 3:17

* **OBEDIENCE IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY. THE OUTCOME IS GOD’S.**

***18****But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”* Daniel 3:18

***19****Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual****20****and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up and throw them into the blazing furnace.* Daniel 3:19-20

***21****So these men… were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace.****22****The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego,****23****and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.* Daniel 3:21-23

***24****Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”* ***25****He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”* Daniel 3:24-25

***26****Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God,*

*come out! Come here!” So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire,****27****and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.* Daniel 3:26-27

**POINSETTIAS**