

## FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD

### 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. Friendship with the world.
  - 1. Black Friday, Cyber Monday
  - 2. This season – materialism at its greatest.
- B. What is our influence in the world?
  - 1. In what ways are we showing Christ?
  - 2. Can people see the difference in our lives? (We have spent the last several months studying our influence.)
- C. Extreme Christianity!
  - 1. Paul, *“Come out from their midst and be separate.”* (reference to Isa. 52:11)
  - 2. James 4:4, *“...friendship with the world – hostility toward God?”*

#### I. NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S IDOL. Daniel 3

- A. Description of the Image.
  - 1. Built an image of gold.
  - 2. Perhaps designed after the image in his dream, Dan. 2.
  - 3. It stood 90 feet high and 9 feet wide.
  - 4. Built on the plain of Dura (in Babylon).
- B. Worship of the Image.
  - 1. He assembled all the officials or dignitaries in his kingdom to dedicate the image.
    - a. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – administrators in the kingdom, D. 2:49.
  - 2. Orders were given to bow down and worship the image when the music played.
- C. Three Men and the Image.
  - 1. The Chaldeans (astrologers) complained that certain Jews did not bow down.
  - 2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego brought before the king.
  - 3. Nebuchadnezzar gives second chance and warns of the punishment if they do not worship the image.
  - 4. The response:
    - a. *“No answer necessary”*, vs. 16.
    - b. *“Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us...and He will...”*, vs. 17.
    - c. *“But even if He does not, ... not going to worship the golden image”*, vs. 18.
  - 5. Cast into the fiery furnace.
    - a. Furnace heated to 7x hotter.
    - b. No effect on their bodies, vs. 27.
    - c. No hair on their head singed.
    - d. Their trousers were not damaged.
    - e. No smell of fire upon them.

#### II. A FAITHFUL STAND.

- A. Resolve...
  - 1. Their faithful stand began with something small.
    - a. Daniel 1:8 – what they would eat.
    - b. *“It is just one drink that leads to addiction.”*
    - c. *“Just one steak! I am hungry. I’ll start the “diet” tomorrow.”*
    - d. *“Bow just this one time, but no more.”*

- e. “Everybody else is doing it.”
  - f. “It will make others uncomfortable”, 1:10.
- 2. Justification based on circumstance.
  - a. Far from home – please those in charge.
  - b. What about the other Jews?
    - i. Sons of Israel, the royal family, nobles, Dan. 1:3.
    - ii. 2 Kings 24:14; Isaiah 39:7
- B. Pressure from the World.
  - 1. Do we “cave” when facing pressure?
  - 2. Do we go out of our way to make the world “more comfortable”?
    - a. Is this not lukewarm? Rev. 3:15-16
    - b. He who stands for nothing will fall for anything.
- C. A Distinct People.
  - 1. Called out to be holy.
    - a. 2 Corinthians 6:17, “*Come out from their midst...*”
    - b. 1 Peter 1:16, “*You shall be holy, for I am holy.*”
    - c. 1 Peter 2:9-10, “*A chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, a people for God’s own possession...*”
  - 2. To be steadfast, immovable, 1 Cor. 15:58.
    - a. Ephesians 4:14, “*...every wind of doctrine...*”
  - 3. To be lights in the world, Phil. 2:15.
    - a. Above reproach – to do nothing that would allow the world to ridicule Christ.
    - b. Blameless – living a life in such a way that no finger of criticism may be pointed.
    - c. Titus 1:9, “*...holding fast the faithful word...*”
    - d. Marshall Keeble, “*The Bible is right. You can go home and fuss all night about what I have preached, but the Bible is right. You can walk the streets and call Keeble a fool, but the Bible is right. You can go home and have spasms, but the Bible is right.*”
  - 4. To expose the world, Ephesians 5:11.
    - a. To expose [Gr.] is to reveal the works of darkness.
    - b. To convict, reprove, discipline.
    - c. To rebuke in both word and deed.
  - 5. To praise God – the end result!
    - a. Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel 3:28-29.
    - b. Matthew 5:16, “*...and glorify your Father...*”
    - c. 1 Peter 2:9-10, “*...proclaim the excellencies of Him...*”
    - d. Is it possible we have dimmed our lights, so as to be comfortable in the world, instead of distinct?

## CLOSING

- A. Are we living “Extreme Christianity”?
- B. “*Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*”
- C. Can’t be both – can only serve one master (Mt. 6:24). Who do you serve?