

Thriving in Cultural Chaos

Summer at the Bayou – Part 5

July 31, 2022

⁵As 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. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.” Daniel 3:5-6 (NIV)

1. Cultivate _____ to God. (3:1-7)

Culture promotes us to:

- _____ self.
- _____ humans.
- _____ worship.

2. Determine to _____ God. (3:13-23)

⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and He will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.” Daniel 3:16-17 (NIV)

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him ... ” Job 13:15 (KJV)

3. Expect _____ from God. (3:19-27)

“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 3:27 (NIV)

Four Life Lessons You Only Learn in the Fire:

1. Facing the fire _____ my commitment.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” 2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)

2. Don’t _____ to peer pressure.

“But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.” 1 Peter 2:20 (NIV)

3. Jesus will be _____.

² ... When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. ³For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior ... ” Isaiah 43:2-3 (NIV)

4. God uses the fire to _____ me.

“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.” Malachi 3:3 (NIV)

Ultimately, God gets _____!

“²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said, ‘Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent His angel and rescued His servants! They trusted in Him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. ²⁹Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.” Daniel 3:28-29 (NIV)