

*"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

**John 8:31-32**

## Store In My Heart

### Romans 14:12

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

What a sobering thought this should be to each of us. We look at others and make judgements about them by their appearance or actions and are often correct in our assessment. Other times we are far from right in how we look at others.

This verse reminds us that we should be concerned about assessing our own motives and actions. When time ends on Earth we will stand before the Creator and account for how we lived. Maybe we should spend more time examine self than others so that we will be better prepared for that day. After all, there is really only one individual over which I have any control. If I will take care of me and am willing to assist you when you need help, I suspect we will all be in better shape for that accounting Day.



# Believe In What Is Right Kent Heaton

In the book of Daniel, three young men are put to a great test of character as they stood before the King of Babylon in defiance to a decree that will cost them their lives. Nebuchadnezzar had made an image of gold nearly ninety feet tall in the plain of Dura and commanded all people to fall down and worship the image at the sound of various forms of music. When the time came, all the *"people, nations and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up"* (**Daniel 3:7**). In the midst of this great throng of bodies bowing down in worship three men remained standing and refused to bow. The penalty for rebellion was clear. *"Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace"* (**Daniel 3:6**).

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were Hebrew slaves taken from their homeland in the invasion of Judah by Babylon. They had been placed in the king's palace to serve and learn the language and literature of the Chaldeans. We know them best by their Chaldean names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Brought before King Nebuchadnezzar the king gave them a second chance to reconsider their refusal to bow down and worship the image. Their reply was clear and demonstrative. *"O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up"* (**Daniel 3:16-18**).

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is back home. She is recovering but weak.

David Laubach's Mom has tested positive for Covid19.

Paula Laubach is in isolation awaiting results from a test.

Amy Simpson is in isolation waiting to hear from a coworker she was in close contact with who is being tested.

Several members still have procedures scheduled for health issues that continue to trouble them.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

The three Hebrews were cast into the furnace but through the grace of God delivered without the hair of their head singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them (**Daniel 3:27**). God used their faith to show the king of Babylon who “*rules in the kingdom of men*” (**Daniel 4:17**). This remarkable story of courage is one fitting for our young people to embrace as they graduate High School and begin the challenging walk of life.

**Two things stand out in this story:** first, the importance of believing in something; secondly, the need of believing in the right thing. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego did not go along with the crowd. It was not their life's aim to be like everyone else. They believed in something and not only believed it but were willing to disobey the law of the king because of what they believed in.

It is easy to go along with everyone else and be like the crowd. When the music began to play in the plain of Dura, thousands of people fell down to worship the image. Consider how odd they felt to be the only ones standing. Literally, everyone was bowing but these three men. They could have fallen down and who would have noticed? They possessed a belief system that challenged the moral code of the day. Young people, you must possess a system of belief to find happiness in life that will set you apart. Following the crowd will get you nowhere (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

**Having a belief system is not enough** – you have to believe in the right thing. They refused to worship the image because it was wrong. They stood for what was right because they stood for what God taught them. They served the Lord and not man (**Acts 4:19-20; 5:29**). As young people going out into the world, you must believe in the right thing and the only thing that is right is what is found in God (**John 17:7**). True happiness will not be found in bowing down to the music of the day. It will only come from standing for God in the face of great opposition to the norms of today. If your life is going to make a difference it must be made with the Lord as your guide and compass (**John 14:6**).

(No matter what the topic, when we take a stand we must be certain our stand is right. There are many who take a stand on things that will not survive this ‘rightness’ test. Any stand that is based on human opinion, emotion, or even allegiance is likely to fail at some point. The only things we can truly know are right will be found in God's Word. Be careful where you stand. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!