

“Is It True?”

by Robert Harkrider

This is the question King Nebuchadnezzar asked of Daniel’s companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when it was reported they had refused to bow down to his image of gold (Dan. 3:14). In rage and fury this great Babylonian king threatened them with a fiery furnace if they refused to serve his gods. With no reluctance whatever they boldly told Nebuchadnezzar it was true, and furthermore their God would deliver them.

Even Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste when he saw that these men were not hurt by the fire. The furnace had been heated seven times hotter than usual so that the men who took them to the furnace were themselves slain, but not an hair was singed on the heads of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

The courage of these three men is needed in our own time. We may not be threatened with death for refusing to serve the god of this world, but we are put to the test: **“Is it true?”** that you believe what you profess?

The Worldly Church Member Answers: “It Is Not True”

Christians must live a life distinctive from the world — in thought, word and action (Rom. 12:1- 2; 1 Pet. 4:1-4). When the Christian tries to make a fusion with the world and Christ, he causes confusion in his life. No man can serve two masters (Matt. 6:24). Even the world looks upon him as a hypocrite; consequently, he does more harm than good. He fools himself who thinks he can mock God (Gal. 6:7-8); he discourages his brethren by his lack of faith; and he tells the world that standing up for Christ isn’t really all that important.

“The Unconcerned Church Member Answers: “Well, Maybe”

The fact we aren’t faced with sacrificing our life has contributed to indifference and unconcern of a convenient faith. While many would not commit immorality or practice false doctrine, they make an uncertain sound of the trumpet by their half-hearted commitment to Christ. Bible study, faithful attendance to worship, and teaching the lost are regarded by them as necessary only if we “have time” (Lk. 14:16-24). The influence of Satan has changed from persecuting the church to petting it to death. Freedom of religion and prosperity of our nation has in many ways proven to be a curse to God’s people by enabling us to think ourselves faithful without renouncing all that we have (Lk. 14:26-33).

The Compromising Church Member: “It Is Not Important Enough”

With double tongues some proclaim in one breath they do not approve of the activities sponsored by the church where they belong, and with the next breath declare that if one more unscriptural practice is introduced they are going to change. Some have said this for the last twenty years as they compromised one principle of faith after another until now the church is not only burdened with human institutions but it has become a veritable social center. Disagree they might, but truth has never been important enough for them to endure the fiery test of standing up for Christ.

How would you have answered Nebuchadnezzar had you been faced with the fiery furnace? If you aren’t sure, examine your present course and you will know.

292102