

Great Smoky Mountains Messenger



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But If Not

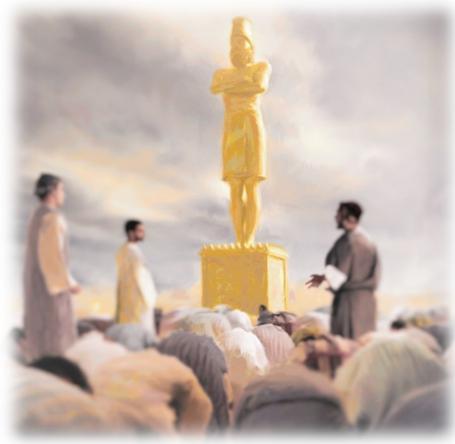
During the life of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar had a great golden statue constructed, which stood some 90 feet tall. The king then commanded that at the proper time, when the music was playing, that all were to bow down and worship this golden image he had made. There were those among his people, however, who were faithful Jews who would not bow down to the image even though the penalty was death in a fiery furnace (Daniel 3:1-12).

These three men, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego, were not going to violate their worship to the one true God by bowing down and paying homage to the image Nebuchadnezzar created. Even after he gave them a second opportunity to worship the image, they still refused. Did they understand the penalty? Did they know that this would cost them their physical lives?

The three men knew full well what the penalty was for refusing to bow to the statue. They responded to the king that they need not be concerned over the circumstances of their refusal, because their God was able to deliver them. They knew that God had the power to save them from physical death in the fiery furnace. Then they uttered three words that demonstrated their great faith in the Almighty God, “but if not” (Daniel 3:18). Even if God did not save them from the physical trial, they knew God would still deliver them spiritually.

How is our faith in times of trouble? Do we have the faith to stand with the one true God? Do we give in to the rest of the world? Do we take the path of least resistance to avoid trial or persecution? Let us look to these three young men as examples of how we should approach trials. There is a current movement in our nation to demonize all things religious. Will we give in and bow to the god of tolerance this world wants us to worship, or will we stay true to God no matter what? God has the power to deliver us from all sorts of physical trials. But if not, He is still the only one who can deliver our souls from everlasting destruction.

-- Dale J. Babinsky



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Please Remember/Pray For:

Patsy Bevis
Ruth Byrne
Trevor Hayes
Kenny Gross
Les Jewell
Janice Messick

Sue Mercer
Heath Tolliver
Larry & Linda Valentine
Kyle & Samantha Williams Family
Howard Yates
Joe Angelo (friend of David & Rita Garrett)

Tina's son Ricky Gross is going to need open heart surgery.
Sydney McCarter (friend of Madi Wade) and her family in the recent passing of her father.



A Note of Thanks

The hostesses of the Memolo's baby shower last Sunday (Sue Hayes, Cathy Haynes, and Paula Babinsky) wish to extend their thanks to the members of our congregation who contributed food or gifts or attended the couples' shower. Everybody seemed to have a great time! The Memolos really appreciated your gifts and kindness.

What's Coming Next?

With the completion of our study of the book of Exodus swiftly coming, we will be turning to the book of Hebrews for our next Sunday morning topic. Because of the references to the tabernacle and Old Testament worship in the book, it will dovetail nicely with what we have been studying on Sunday mornings. We hope that you will take advantage of these classes.



Searching for good content? You can check out all of the past lessons from the Great Smoky Mountains church of Christ on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@GSMCOC. Please be sure to like, subscribe, and share to help us spread God's word!

- ◆ Tues., Feb. 20, Both the Men's and Women's Bible classes will be heading to the gospel meeting at Eastside COC.
- ◆ February 18-21, Gospel Meeting at Eastside COC in Maryville with Phil Sanders.
- ◆ February 25-28, Preparing for Loss Workshop at Karns church of Christ.



Have something for the bulletin? Please give updates to Dale or Leah by Thursday.

<p><u>Pantry Needs</u></p> <p>Paper Products</p>	<p><u>Food Assistance Program Lead for February</u></p> <p>Elora Crabtree</p>	<p><u>Current Building Loan Balance</u></p> <p>\$413,476.92</p>
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God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear the Gospel, Romans 10:17
- Believe the Gospel, John 8:24
- Repent of Sins, Luke 13:3
- Confess Jesus as God's Son, Matt. 10:32
- Baptized to wash away sins, Acts 2:38
- Faithful 'til death, Revelation 2:10

Today's Sermons

- ◆ AM —The Value of Leadership
- ◆ PM — But If Not

Check out the sermon archives on our website at
www.gsmchurchofchrist.com

Please come back and worship with us in Spirit and in Truth—John 4:24