

BE YE SEPARATE (II)

January 15, 2017

Daniel 1:1-31

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8

Daniel resolved that no matter how much it cost him, he would not be ruled by the pagan culture of Nebuchadnezzar's palace. Rather, having the law of God in his heart, he would order his life according to its precepts, even if it cost him his life. In short, he refused to “fit-in” with this world's ways.

Daniel understood that God's people throughout history are separate from the prevailing flow of humanity, distinctive as “strangers and pilgrims” among men (I Peter 2:9-11). It was God who prescribed this difference (Leviticus 10, 11), for God is holy, and separate from that which is unholy.

By faith, Noah obeyed, building the ark. This obedience separated him for all humanity (Genesis 6; Hebrews 11:7). The same was true of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; of Israel in Egyptian slavery and in the wilderness. God decreed their separation from the unbelieving peoples surrounding them. He gave the Law of Moses, which prescribed peculiar practices in diet, agriculture, health-care, clothing, hygiene and worship, distinguishing them from all others. Daniel understood that God's people are to be separated unto Him in holiness. Soul-saving faith distinguishes and separates them. Daniel's life was governed by this conviction. He knew what Scripture teaches:

1. This world hates Christ.

John 15:18-21 This world hates Christ

This world will hate those who are true to Christ

2. God's people are not to love this world.

I John 2:15-17 Love not the world

Love of the world cannot coexist with the love of God

This world-system is merely the mass-manifestation of individual lusts

This world will perish, God's people will endure forever

Friendship with the world in enmity with God (James 4:4; Ephesians 5:11)

3. Each person, by nature, is an enemy of God, and together they make up this world-system.

Ephesians 2:1-3 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”

Romans 5:6-10 “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”