

Reading: Daniel 1:8,9; 17-21
Living Righteously

Topic:

In An Evil World

INTRODUCTION: The followers of Jesus Christ have always _____ opposition in this world
in varying degrees from _____ persecution to toleration, and
in today's age
it is becoming a challenge for believers to navigate their way in a very wicked time.

I. THE EARLY CHURCH:

A. Faced Opposition:

1. The Church that was _____ on the Day of Pentecost was both a crowd drawing institution and an object of ridicule as they received the Holy Ghost and _____. Acts 2:11,12
2. Not long after the Day of Pentecost, the miracle of the healing of the _____ man caused both amazement and _____ which led to the arresting of Peter and John. Acts 4:1-3

B. Holy Spirit Demonstration & Angry Opposition:

1. The power of God moved as the early church ministered and preached the _____, with many people being born again and _____ of the sick. Acts 5:12-16
2. The more the power of God moved, the angrier the opposition became which led to the _____ of the apostles, who were threatened and _____ by the authorities. Acts 5:17-20, 40-42

II. THE 21ST CENTURY CHURCH:

A. The Transformation Of Attitudes:

1. A well-known sociologist, Aaron Renn did an extensive observation _____ of the shifting attitudes towards Christianity in western _____ during the last sixty years and it revealed the following:
 - a. The years 1964-1994 – During this period, Christianity was still regarded as a positive thing in society and deemed to be part of the underlying _____ of civilization.
 - b. The Years 1994-2014 – During this period the attitudes toward Christianity changed from positive to neutral as it became regarded as just one _____ among many others, and became to many as

a mistake to be corrected or an _____ to be rejected in favor of better ones.
c. The Years 2014-present day – During this period, Christianity has become to many as an

_____ to be resisted, a social _____ that needs to be resisted or even eliminated.

B. The Challenge To The People Of God:

1. With the shift in attitudes over the past generation and a half from _____ and respected, to today with disrespect and _____ views, how does a child of God live in such a world?
2. The people of God work on jobs, they go to schools and colleges, they _____ in stores and malls and live in neighborhoods with people who are _____ and not conscious of God.
3. How does the child of God conduct themselves in the midst of such a _____ and perverse generation of lost people?
4. For some Christians it is a choice between isolation and seclusion or direct confrontation and an all out in-your-face _____ against the wicked.

III. THE CHALLENGE OF LIVING IN BABYLON:

A. Finding Oneself In Babylon:

1. Daniel and his three companions were taken from their homeland where they _____ the one true God of Israel, and brought as captives to the _____ land of Babylon.
2. Immediately, they were faced with choices to be loyal and true to the one _____ God of Israel or to surrender and conform to the _____ practices of Babylon. Daniel 1:5
3. Daniel and his three companions made the choice to do what was _____ in the sight of the Lord and the Lord gave them favor and made a way for them to _____ doing wrong. Daniel 1:8,9,12-16
4. When we make up our minds to do the _____ thing, God will make a way to provide us with a better option and we don't have to compromise with _____. I Cor. 10:13

B. More Tests In Babylon:

1. When the King had his dream of the great image, he needed to _____ out what it meant and when His wise men and soothsayers could not help him, he ordered to _____ them all including Daniel
2. In the midst of that _____ in a pagan nation, God used Daniel, the one God believer to tell the interpretation of the king's dream and he changed from wanting to _____ Daniel to worshipping him and promoting him and his three companions. Dan. 2:46-49
3. When a child of God is thrust into a critical situation, like Daniel, just _____ the Lord for the answer and He will provide what is needed to overcome. James 4:7

C. The Critical Test:

1. The three companions of Daniel were placed into a very precarious _____ because of their position and status, and they had to make a choice to compromise or face certain _____. Dan.3:6
2. The three young men chose to do the _____ thing and to not _____ down to the false god of the King and they went from being on his good side to facing execution. Dan. 3:16-18
3. Once again, though they had to go through the _____, the three young men came out victorious through a divine miracle that brought the King to make a declaration that the one _____ God was to be honored by everyone or else they would be executed. Dan. 3:28-30
4. When a child of God will stand for what is right, the Lord will make a _____ for them to not just survive, but will bring _____ upon them. Ps. 1:1-3

D. The Lion's Den Test:

1. Daniel was hated by other leaders because of his faith in the one _____ God, and they sought for a way to get _____ of him.
2. Through deceit and trickery, the wicked men fooled the King into passing a _____ that no one was allowed to pray to anyone except the King for a period of _____.
3. Daniel was willing to _____ the law to do what was right and he prayed and was arrested and thrown into a den of lions, where once again, God did a miracle, sending an angel to _____ the mouths of the lions and deliver Daniel. Dan. 6:9-11, 16, 21-23
4. As Christians we should _____ the laws of the land except when it comes to conflicting with the Word of God, and when we _____ the Lord, we may incur the anger of men, but we will have the approval of the Lord.

Conclusion: As children of God, we are facing an _____ time and yet we have the opportunity

do what is right and be a _____ in a dark and lost world.