Pastor Demetric Felton Sr August 18, 2019

**Living For God Can Be Hazardous To Your Health**

Daniel 6:1-14

**Key Truth:** There is often a cost to our comfort when we choose to obey God rather than man.

**The Story: Messy Co-Workers And An Ego Maniac King**:

1. Daniel was a humble servant to the king.

2. Daniel was faithful in carrying out his responsibilities.

3. Daniel lived out his faith beyond the walls.

4. Daniel was wise, courageous and respectful even in the

 midst of injustice.

**Lessons We Can Learn From Daniel:**

1. We must always understand that the goal of the Great

 Commission is obedience.

 A. Obedience to God will not always be easy but it’s

 necessary if we want to experience victory and

 eventually proclaim the gospel to others.

 B. Obedience will earn us the respect of unbelievers

 over time even if they don’t agree with our message.

2. We will always have adversaries who will try to

 discredit our faith.

 A. Let God fight your battles.

3. Make friends in high places you never know who God

 will use as your advocate.

 A. Be hopeful because God is in control.

 B. Be humble by serving others and putting their

 interest before yours.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Pray that God will help us understand the importance of prayer, and the importance of being a good witness for His greatness in public.

**Food For Thought**

Does Daniel remind you of any other biblical character in this section?

Why do you think King Darius signed this prayer edict? How might our similarly arrogant actions affect others?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-13: What two attitudes did Peter instruct the believers to take toward these difficulties?

Why would Peter have wanted the Christians to not be surprised by sufferings for their faith? Why would he want them to rejoice—how is that even possible?

How should Christians today prepare themselves for the potential of increasing hostility toward the Christian faith?

What would it take for you to “rejoice” or consider yourself “blessed” and “not be ashamed” to experience hostile attitudes and actions against you because of your faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ?

How might God use the hostilities developing toward Christians to bring about purification and refinement within believers? What steps can you take now to assure that, if hostilities develop toward you for your Christian faith, you continue “doing what is good” and entrust yourself to God?