**Daniel** (Lesson 4)

*(Spiritual Living in a Secular World) Daniel 3*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

READ: Daniel 3 (Bow or Burn)

1. If you were covering this story for the evening news, what scenes would you include in the final edit?

Which participants would you try to interview and why?

1. What do you think prompted Nebuchadnezzar to build this image of gold?
2. What motivated the astrologers to report the disobedience of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (vv.8-12)?
3. What temptations did Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego face when they were brought before the king (vv.13-15)?
4. What were these men certain of in their response to Nebuchadnezzar’s challenge, and what were they certain of (vv.16-18)?
5. How will their example encourage you if you are faced with the possibility of losing your job or being rejected by friends because of your refusal to compromise God’s Word?
6. Some Christians claim that pain and sickness or difficulty are always the result of sin or lack of faith. How would you respond to that claim in light of verses 16-18?
7. What specific actions did God take to assure the three men and to demonstrate his power to Nebuchadnezzar (vv. 24-30)?
8. As you look back over the chapter, what lessons about the risks and rewards of obedience to God are most significant to you.
9. What commitments can you make to the Lord today that will prepare you to face the pressures of the secular culture around you?

*Renew your commitment to Jesus as Lord over your life*. *Ask him to give you the courage and grace to seek to please him first of all.*

***Now or Later***

Reading the accounts of Christians who have been persecuted or martyred for their faith will give you a deeper appreciation for those who are suffering for their allegiance to Christ. Two books that will challenge you are By the Blood: Christian Martyrs in the Twentieth Century by James and Marti Hefley, and Martyrs, edited by Susan Bergman. A search of Christian periodicals or web sites will show you where Christians are being persecuted today. Spend some time praying for Christians who are under persecution.

***NEXT LESSON***:

**Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**

***Our God Reigns! –* READ: Daniel 4**