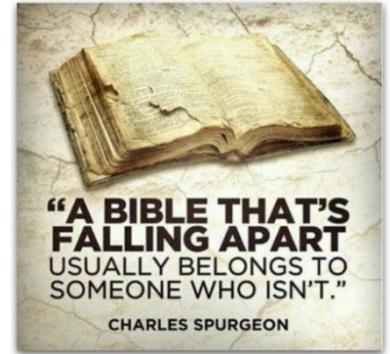




Beaches Baptist Church

July 15-21, 2019



A WORD for the Journey

BOLD

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel..."

- Romans 1:16

When Church & State Collide

The following are suggested readings to do with the preaching series ('BOLD') I will be taking over the two weeks. What has instigated this series are the increasing attacks we are seeing against Christians who seek to testify of their faith in the public square.

The call for every Christian is to not shrink back (Heb.10:38-39), not to be ashamed of the gospel (Rom.1:16) and to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).

Monday

Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Reflect: The inscription on the denarius read, "Ti[berivs] Caesar Divi Avg[vsti] F[ilivs] Avgvstvs" = "Caesar Augustus Tiberius, son of the Divine Augustus" - Claiming Tiberius Caesar was Son of God; The other side: "Pontif[ex] Maxim[us]" = "High Priest". Ironically, the honour that was being bestowed upon the emperor should have been given to the man who stood before them. The one they would eventually crucify. So when Jesus says, "...render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's", it is a challenge to us all to get our allegiances right. Are we deifying false images, or are we worshipping Jesus "the image of the invisible God?" (Col.1:15). Is Jesus our great High Priest- the one who makes intercession for us?

Tuesday

Daniel 3:1-7 (MSG)

¹⁻³ King Nebuchadnezzar built a gold statue, ninety feet high and nine feet thick. He set it up on the Dura plain in the province of Babylon. He then ordered all the important leaders in the province, everybody who was anybody, to the dedication ceremony of the statue. They all came for the dedication, all the important people, and took their places before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had erected.

⁴⁻⁶ A herald then proclaimed in a loud voice: "Attention, everyone! Every race, colour, and creed, listen! When you hear the band strike up—all the trumpets and trombones, the tubas and baritones, the drums and cymbals—fall to your knees and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Anyone who does not kneel and worship shall be thrown immediately into a roaring furnace."

⁷ The band started to play, a huge band equipped with all the musical instruments of Babylon, and everyone—every race, colour, and creed—fell to their knees and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Reflect: To what images do our present-day leaders want God's people to bow? Jesus is the only one whom we should adore.

Wednesday

Daniel 3:8-12 (MSG)

⁸⁻¹² Just then, some Babylonian fortune-tellers stepped up and accused the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "Long live the king! You gave strict orders, O king, that when the big band started playing, everyone had to fall to their knees and worship the gold statue, and whoever did not go to their knees and worship it had to be pitched into a roaring furnace. Well, there are some Jews here—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—whom you have placed in high positions in the province of Babylon. These men are ignoring you, O king. They don't respect your gods and they won't worship the gold statue you set up."

Reflect: God's people always stand out from the crowd as ones who show no respect for the gods of this age- whether those gods be identities or ideals. Be bold!

Thursday

Daniel 3:13-18 (MSG)

¹³⁻¹⁵ Furious, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be brought in. When the men were brought in, Nebuchadnezzar asked, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you don't respect my gods and refuse to worship the gold statue that I have set up? I'm giving you a second chance—but from now on, when the big band strikes up you must go to your knees and worship the statue I have made. If you don't worship it, you will be pitched into a roaring furnace, no questions asked. Who is the god who can rescue you from my power?"

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your threat means nothing to us. If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. But even if he doesn't, it wouldn't make a bit of difference, O king. We still wouldn't serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

Reflect: God's people are not intimidated by the threats of the worldly who try to push them into its mould.

Friday

Daniel 3:19-25 (MSG)

¹⁹⁻²³ Nebuchadnezzar, his face purple with anger, cut off Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace fired up seven times hotter than usual. He ordered some strong men from the army to tie them up, hands and feet, and throw them into the roaring furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, bound hand and foot, fully dressed from head to toe, were pitched into the roaring fire. Because the king was in such a hurry and the furnace was so hot, flames

from the furnace killed the men who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to it, while the fire raged around Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

²⁴ Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, “Didn’t we throw three men, bound hand and foot, into the fire?”

“That’s right, O king,” they said.

²⁵ “But look!” he said. “I see four men, walking around freely in the fire, completely unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!”

Reflect: Through the worst of persecution, the Lord has promised to be with you.

Saturday

Daniel 3:26-30 (MSG)

²⁶ Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the roaring furnace and called in, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the High God, come out here!”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire.

²⁷ All the important people, the government leaders and king’s counselors, gathered around to examine them and discovered that the fire hadn’t so much as touched the three men—not a hair singed, not a scorch mark on their clothes, not even the smell of fire on them!

²⁸ Nebuchadnezzar said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel and rescued his servants who trusted in him! They ignored the king’s orders and laid their bodies on the line rather than serve or worship any god but their own.

²⁹ “Therefore I issue this decree: Anyone anywhere, of any race, color, or creed, who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and their houses torn down. There has never been a god who can pull off a rescue like this.”

³⁰ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Reflect: The child of God who stands on his convictions causes even their persecutors to magnify the Lord.

Sunday

Matthew 10:16-20 (ESV)

¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Reflect: Jesus warned that persecution will come- but He has provided us with His Spirit to help us, comfort us and to give us the words to say. We are not alone!