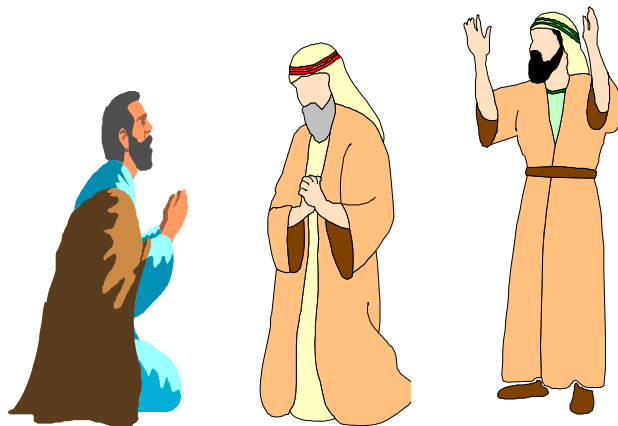


Some People Who Followed God

Daniel's Three Friends



OUR DAILY BREAD

Junior Edition

7-15-07



SOMETHING YOU MUST KNOW:

God is perfect. He is Holy. We are all sinners. ***For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.***

(Romans 3:23a KJB)

None of us could ever make ourselves perfect or holy to be accepted by God. But God loves us all so much, that He gave His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and pay the penalty for our sins IN FULL, ONCE and FOR ALL. Jesus died and rose again. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ, God can now make us holy and acceptable to Himself. ***For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.*** (1 Peter 3:18 KJB)

Jesus Christ is our ONLY WAY to God and heaven.

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

(John 14:6 KJB)

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31 KJB)

Without Jesus Christ, you can NEVER be accepted by God or go to heaven. When you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God makes you His child. When you leave this world, you will spend all of eternity with Him! ***But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*** (John 1:12 KJB) While you are still here on earth, learn His beautiful Word. Believe it and obey it, so you can enjoy all God has done for you.

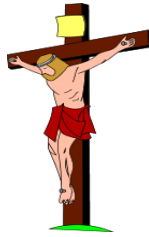
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom.

(Colossians 3:16a KJB)

Today we will continue with our study about

PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED GOD.

So far in our study, we have learned that to become a follower of God, you must **FIRST** belong to God's family. We have learned that becoming a member of God's family is **EASY** for us. God **MADE** it easy for us.



Jesus died on the cross & **COMPLETEY** paid for our sins. Then Jesus was buried & rose from the dead. He went back up to heaven. And now all a person has to do to become part of God's family is:

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, ” Acts 16:31 KJB

That's all a person has to do to be **SAVED** from the Lake of Fire & be made a child of God **FOREVER!**

Here is another scripture that tells us the same thing.

But as many as received him to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12 KJB

That is how we get to **BELONG** to God's family. And once we **BELONG** to God's family, **NOW** we are ready to also become

PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW GOD!

Now, as you have just learned, it is **EASY** for a person to become a member of God's family. We don't have to **DO** anything else but just simply **BELIEVE IN JESUS & God** places

you in His family FOREVER. God will NEVER throw you out of His family. He has PROMISED that over & over again in His Word. Here is just ONE of His promises about this:

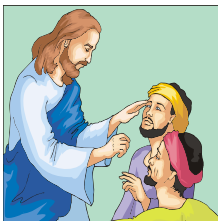
"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

John 6:37 KJB

Boy! I am sure glad I have THAT promise from God. Why? Because there are some days when I do NOT follow God as a child of God should. But I know that even on those BAD DAYS that I am STILL His child & He STILL LOVES ME!

PRAISE THE LORD FOR
HIS FAITHFULNESS & LOVE!

However!!! To FOLLOW GOD is NOT SO EASY! In fact, it takes some SACRIFICE - some giving up of certain things, some time, some activities or even certain people whom we might like in order to do what God says! Read what Jesus said about FOLLOWING HIM:



"And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23 KJB

What did Jesus mean by "take up your cross"? Just for a moment let's think of what Jesus did when he went to the cross to die for our sins. Well, as we learned before, He went to the cross in OBEDIENCE to His Father. The night before He was crucified Jesus humbly knelt down & prayed to His Father:

"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup

from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine,
be done." Luke 22:42 KJB

Jesus used the word CUP to mean the punishment for our sins that He was going to endure on the cross. As you can see, He WILLINGLY chose to GIVE UP HIS LIFE in OBEDIENCE TO GOD for us!

So when Jesus tells us that following Him will involve our "taking up our cross", He means that many times following Him will mean that we must say NO to ourselves - we might have to give something up! In times when that seems hard for you to do, remember that Jesus GAVE UP His VERY LIFE for YOU! What does the word FOLLOW mean?



... to accept another as a guide or leader.
... to understand.
... to go or come after another.

To FOLLOW Jesus, WHO IS GOD, we accept Him as our leader. We OBEY what He says because we KNOW & UNDERSTAND that He knows what is RIGHT & BEST for us - no matter WHAT things may look like! He ALREADY KNOWS what will happen the very next second in our lives - so He knows what is best for us to do in EVERY SITUATION! Those who follow God, don't follow Him because they are AFRAID of Him. They follow God because they have LEARNED that He LOVES them & DOES WHAT IS BEST for them. They follow God because they have learned that they can

TRUST HIM - 100% - ALWAYS! They follow Him because they LOVE HIM! They want to please Him! Hebrews 11:6!

And just WHERE do the followers of God FOLLOW HIM? Why in doing things that He has ALREADY PREPARED FOR THEM TO DO! God has GONE AHEAD of us & prepared lots for us to do as we obey Him every day! We are to COME AFTER HIM & DO THEM! In fact THAT is why Jesus died to SAVE us & makes us God's children - so that we will FOLLOW HIM in the WORKS that He has ALREADY PREPARED for us to do.



"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Titus 2:14 KJB

What GOOD WORKS are those? Are they things we think of to do on our own? NO! They are the GOOD WORKS that God prepared WAY BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THIS WORLD for us to FOLLOW HIM IN!

"For we are his workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

Ephesians 2:10 KJB

So we see then, that following God takes some WORK on our part. We must DO certain things - read our bibles, pray, try NOT to sin, go to a church where God's TRUTH is taught from the Bible, stay AWAY from churches

that do NOT teach God's TRUTH from the Bible. Stay away from people who will try to stop us from obeying God. Help others when God tells us to, & do other things too that God will tell us in His written Word! Here are just a few scriptures from our King James Bible of 1611 that tell us some things we must DO to FOLLOW GOD: Romans 6:11-13, 22; Ephesians 5:1-32; Ephesians 6:1-18; James 1:19-27; Hebrews 10:23-25; Philippians 2:1-16

And even if you must DENY YOURSELF of certain things in this life in order to follow Jesus, Jesus says that you will BE GLAD YOU DID SO! He says that you will be rewarded! Listen to this: "Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.



And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting." Luke 18:28-30 KJB

If you are a child of God, KEEP READING HIS WORD EVERYDAY TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN BE

A PERSON WHO FOLLOWS GOD!

And so today, to help you learn a little more about what it means to FOLLOW GOD, we'll read about 3 young men who determined to

FOLLOW GOD NO MATTER WHAT!

A few weeks ago, we read a little bit about a teenager named Daniel who wanted to obey God no matter what ever happened to him! He had been taken captive along with all the people of Israel. He had been taken away from his home in Jerusalem to Babylon. Not only was he taken away from his home - he & his whole family - but he was then also

taken away from his family to live in the enemy king's palace to serve this king in the strange city of Babylon where the people spoke a different language, ate different foods & worshipped all kinds of pagan gods instead Jehovah, the ONE TRUE GOD. Daniel was only one of many Jewish children taken to this evil city.

Daniel also had 3 friends who determined to obey God even though they were taken captive. They too, were only teenagers when the evil king, Nebuchadnezzar invaded Jerusalem & took them all away. This evil king wanted these Jewish children to FORGET all the things that they knew & believed when they lived in Jerusalem. Instead, this evil king wanted them to learn HIS WAYS & the ways of his pagan people. In fact, this evil king even CHANGED the names of these Jewish children! He did not even want them to remember their REAL NAMES! Let's see why!.

"Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:" Daniel 1:6 KJB

To find out why the king had their names changed, let's take a closer look at the Jewish names of these 4 boys. We can be certain that these 4 teenagers KNEW what their Jewish names meant because all 4 LOVED GOD & wanted to OBEY GOD NO MATTER WHAT - even while they were slaves of this evil king! Now let's see what each Jewish name meant.

DANIEL

God is my Judge

HANANIAH Whom Jehovah graciously gave
MISHAEL Who belongs to God
AZARIAH Whom Jehovah aids

Jehovah is the Hebrew word for THE LORD. It actually is the Old Testament name for Jesus. From their names we see that these young men KNEW THE LORD! Every one of their names mentions The Lord, God. No wonder that pagan king changed their names. He did NOT want these boys to serve their God anymore. He wanted them to completely FORGET their God. But as their names tell us, these 4 boys knew that God was their Ruler & Judge, their true King. They knew that God is the One who created them & that they belonged to God. They knew that He would always help them. Do YOU know these things about God?

These boys did NOT believe what the world said about things! They BELIEVED & OBEYED GOD! These boys knew Psalms 118:8-9. Read it for yourself! And by the way Psalms 118:8 is located at the very CENTER of our King James Bible of 1611!

Next week, we will see what names these boys were given as the king tried to get these boys to forget their God. We will also see that he did NOT succeed because Daniel's 3 friends were

PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED GOD TOO!

GRACE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Pastor John A. Ricci

Sunday Morning Service

10:00 A.M.

Sunday Transportation Service ~ Call 24 hours Prior

Weekly Services

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday & Friday Evenings, 7:00-7:20 P.M.

Communion Service

First Sunday of Every Month

Children's Prep School (Ages 5-14) & Mother's Room

Available for Every Service

Email

info@gracecfellowship.org

From I-95

- RI Exit #22; *Left* at split to **Rt. 6 W.**
- Take Killingly St (Rt. 128) Exit; *Right* off Exit.
- Take Killingly to end; *Right* on Manton Ave; cross bridge.
- Turn *Left* at light (CVS on corner), and then bear *Left* at the split. You are now on Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1 mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Left*.

From Rt. 146

- Mineral Spring Ave Exit in Providence.
- From **146 N** turn *Left* off Exit; from **146 S** turn *Right*.
- Take Mineral Spring to end and stay *Left* around the rotary (pass North Providence Town Hall).
- Take next *Right* onto Woonasquatucket Ave.
- Go about 1½ mi.
- **G.C.F.** is on the *Right*.



Grace Christian Fellowship

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