

## Reformation Sunday

Sermon Road Map

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Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

October 28, 2018

### Why is a firm stand on the Living God faith's only option?

- Why did Daniel do what he did?
  - ♦ He could have prayed privately with the window closed. Prayed at night. Give it a rest for 30 days.
  - ♦ It was not an option!

### Why is a firm stand on the Living God faith's only option?

#### ❖ Faith means: *trust in - rely on*

- God creates faith - showing us he is the Living God, he forgives, becomes our God, promising we are his people, giving new life - which is faith.
- Faith relies on God and his promises.
  - ♦ It stands firmly on the Eternal Rock our Savior. It takes refuge in God.
- Faith knows God alone can save and will save.
  - ♦ Faith relies on this - firmly standing on and with the steadfast Savior
- That's what faith is. That's what faith does.

#### ❖ Faith lives confessing God as my God

- Relying on the Living God for life, we live with him as our God.
- Treating God as my God. Daniel demonstrates.
  - ♦ Thank him - for being my God, all blessings, rescue/protection
  - ♦ Humbly submitting to him. He's God. I'm weak, only dust.
  - ♦ Asking him to do what he promises - keep me as his very own.
- Confessing God is **not** merely occasional or formal.
  - ♦ Faith breathes and lives confessing/treating God as my God.
  - ♦ That's what Daniel did, because that's what faith does.
  - ♦ <sup>8</sup>*I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God.* <sup>9</sup>*But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.* LK 12
- All who back away from standing on and in Christ to *save* themselves, makes themselves their own *savior* and *lord*. This will **not** end well.
  - ♦ What is the confession of those who refuse to:
    - gather to humbly listen, pray, praise, give thanks, receive his Supper?
  - ♦ Clearly something else is their god - their source of *life*.
  - ♦ What they rely on for refuge and life is their god. It's not Jesus!
  - ♦ *Christian* or *Lutheran* on a military form or hospital admission means nothing to God when he is **not** treated as *my God* in daily life.

#### ❖ Reformation is a call to join the long line of Confessors.

- Daniel, Stephan, Paul, Luther,...
- ♦ It's not a celebration of heroes! We covet the work God did in them.
- ♦ Like them we're drawn to, rely on, and take refuge in:
  - God's forgiveness, faithful love, promised protection, rescue from sin and death - revelation of freedom from sin to live with God
  - God's revealed truths - like those highlighted in the 6 small banners
    - The exclusive authority of the Scriptures - their Divine Source
    - Total depravity of the human condition. Christian - saint & sinner
    - Justification through faith alone in Christ Crucified - Bible center
    - The Gospel frees us from the Law - a slavish fearful obedience
    - 2 Kingdoms (Church & State): distinctive realms/roles and tools
    - The Sacraments are the work of God alone
- Our Catechumens have seen these things and desire to stand there with us.
  - ♦ Their joy over the Holy Faith they've come to know reminds us what we found and took our stand on - to live with God as my God.
- Polycarp was invited to save his life by cursing Christ (23 February 156)
  - ♦ His reply: "*Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?*"
- Luther was ordered to renounce his confession of the Gospel.
  - ♦ It gave him life and peace. It was unthinkable to stand/live elsewhere.
- Confession does not come from forcing yourself to stand on Jesus.
  - ♦ It flows from seeing who Jesus is, what it means Jesus claims us as his own, the richness found in standing firm on him for life, confident that apart from him there is no life - real life - eternal life.

### Why is a firm stand on the Living God faith's only option?

That's what faith does. That's where faith lives, thrives, acts. As Daniel demonstrated - encouraging God's people in Babylon and throughout all time.