

Verse by Verse: Daniel 6:10

By Lloyd T. Anderson

Lloyd Anderson:

Good morning again, friends we're very happy to be with you this particular time and taking the place of Dr. Louis Talbot, chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. I do want to say it's a great privilege for me to take this man's place. When I think of his ministry over the years, my heart is deeply touched and moved; when I think of the countless numbers of boys and girls, and men and women, who have been brought to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of his ministry. I trust you'll remember him much in prayer that God may use this man of the Lord, that the Holy Spirit shall take him, and these days of his life, and enrich him, and fill him with spiritual power in order that many others may come to know the same Christ he has come to know and love these many, many years.

I wanted to share with you, just a pastoral word concerning the Ministry of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles with its numbers of schools, the School of Missionary Medicine, Talbot's Seminary, the Bible College and the Bible Institute. Here, my friend, as I speak to you now as a pastor, is a real school to which you can trust your young people. Young people who will be deeply indoctrinated in the word of God and who will graduate with a spiritual perception because Jesus Christ is made more real to them as they walk down these halls of learning at Biola. And so when you remember the school and give generously to its needs, that the Lord may make it possible for other young people who perhaps cannot easily afford to come to come to the school and be blessed as a result.

Now, if you have your Bibles, will you turn with me to a text in the Old Testament? One, I'm sure that in a sense is very, very familiar to all of us. It's found in Daniel chapter 6 and in verse 10: "And now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his own house, and his windows being open and his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as he did aforetime." Now, the chapter in which this particular text of scripture occurs is a greatly beloved one by many, many people. I'm sure that the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den has been blessed to multitudes. It's always a tonic for weak faith and a stimulus to the faint hearted. If there is a tendency to display the white feather or to haul down the flag, you and I need to turn at once to this portion of the word of God. And here, my friend, and the life of Daniel is a marvelous demonstration of constancy, of spiritual conviction in a man's life.

You see, it's not easy at all times to stand firm or to be spiritually steadfast. You found that out in your own life. You have friends who come to your home to whom, in a sense, you're not a shamed, but you just don't feel right about talking to them about Jesus Christ. You have people where you work who even though you're a Christian and they know it--yet your convictions have never been strong enough to drive you to speak to that individual about Jesus Christ. But, you know, the apost--this man, Daniel in the Old Testament was an individual who was filled with a sense of God's fullness. You know, sometimes we're very quick to criticize faltering. Peter, when you remember, he was challenged by the little girl at the trial of the Lord Jesus Christ, and how he warmed his hands at the fire, and the cock crew and this man had denied his Lord three times. But how often you and I have failed under a less conspicuous circumstances that were far easier than his when we should have spoken up. We kept still; our

lips were lifeless when they should have been resonant with a gospel message. And so, Daniel is a great stimulus to your Christian life and mine.

And when we come to this blessed chapter, which is chapter 6 of the Book of Daniel, it is defined that King Darius of the Medo-Persian Empire was on the throne. It was his empire that succeeded Babylon. He was a great leader. He was a mighty ruler, but he didn't know the Lord. You remember it was King Nebuchadnezzar who associated the idols with God. It was Belshazzar, his grandson who descended lower and who substituted idols for God. But Darius sank to the bottom and substituted himself for God. And in this he is a type of the Antichrist, my friend, who one day, prophetically, is going to make his appearance as the word of God declares it to be. Now, Darius signed a decree that no one should ever pray to the Lord, but should pray to him. He was God, he thought. And how silly, my friends, some men can be, even though they were in high places of authority and rulership. Sin makes fools of everybody, whether kings or peasants, whether sovereigns or subjects. There are absolutely no exceptions to that rule.

We read of Daniel in verse 3 that he was preferred above the presidents and the princes, because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. And why was Daniel distinguished above everybody else? The answer is found in the fact that he was controlled by the Holy Spirit. This was the secret of his own success. This blessing belongs to all men in all walks of life if they will only receive what God wants them to see.

Sometimes I hear people talk about the big city preachers and the little country preachers. Let us perish the thought. In the mind of God, there are and are no such empty distinctions. If a man is controlled by the Spirit of God and he is in the place where God wants him to be, my friend, that individual is a big man and a big place. Whether it's in the city or whether it's in the

country, the big place and the only place for every child of God is to be in the center of God's will. And that, my friend, is where Daniel happened to be.

Sometimes it's a hard place, and it was with Daniel. Those dishonorable, jealous princes of the realm touched him at the most vital place of his own life. And that, of course, was in his relationship to the Lord. "And then," said these men in Daniel, 6 and 5, "we shall not find any occasion against this, Daniel, except, we find it against him concerning the law of his God." What a wonderful testimony this is. When they found out that they could not trip him, then, my friend, they tried to trap him. And how well they succeed. We're going to see in just a moment.

It's a great thing to have conviction, yay, constancy and conviction. And God, you remember said to David about his son Solomon, "Moreover, I will establish his kingdom forever if he be constant to do my commandments and my judgment, as at this day." Everything depended upon his steadiness and his constancy and his loyalty to God. Suppose Daniel had not been faithful. Supposing it not been true to his own conviction. The loss that you and I would have sustained would have been sad to contemplate, because we would have been without this written record of the wonderful constancy and convictions of Daniel in the Old Testament.

You know, the dictionary defines constancy as meaning regular, or steadfast, not liable to change and not fickle. Constancy is a virtue to be praised and praised. It pleases God and it always blesses men. You know, you and I despise those people who are one thing today and something else tomorrow. The most desirable members of the church, and now I speak as a pastor, are not those who are the richest. Not those who are the most talented. Not those who are the most talkative. But my friend, those who are the most loyal, and steadfast, and faithful and true. The people you can count on Sunday night, as well as Sunday morning, and prayer meeting night as well as Sunday morning. These are the people upon whom the churches really built. The

other people may give a little and they come once in a while, but you can't really depend on them. Now we love Daniel, not because he was premier, not because he was a revealer of secrets or a dissolver of all doubts, but because he was true blue. And he stood firm and constant in his convictions, no matter what price he had to pay. And oh, what a lesson for you and me in this hour.

We may ask ourselves the question, my friend, what was behind this act of the old prophet in going to his window three times a day and praying to the Lord? The first answer to the question, I feel certain, is to be found, of course, in his own faith and in his own belief in the Lord. You see, this mighty man of God believed in the Lord. His faith was deep seated. His faith was genuine and true. You and I will never make any progress in our Christian experience, apart from being fully persuaded concerning the reality of the Godhead and the reliability of the scriptures of the living Lord. If our faith in God is shallow, we will wilt when they heat of persecution begins to blow upon us. If we have the idea that the Bible is a bundle of old wives tales, we will not be willing to stand up and be counted among the faithful in the hours of spiritual trial. If you and I are not standing upon the Rock of Ages, then we are sinking in the quick sands of unbelief. Christianity is not like a coat. Something to put on today and take off tomorrow, according to the conditions of the weather. My friend, Christianity is a life. Christianity is Christ. And when you know him, you want to have convictions, and you want to believe, and you want to trust.

It was Matthew Arnold who wrote a very interesting first thing when he said, "Conduct is three fourths of a man's life." And multitudes have fallen for this little bit of sophistry. He made the statement at the expense of doctrine and conviction. You see your real life, my friend, and I'm talking to you now as a Christian, is rooted in the glorious teachings of the word of God.

Anything that you believe spiritually that does not have its foundations in the word of God, the Bible, the Old Testament, or the New Testament is only man's speculation. We need to remember that doctrine is essential to deportment as the root is essential to the tree. It is nonsense to say that it makes no difference what you believe just as long as you live, right. You see, Daniel's firm convictions led him to the window to pray. And it was. Cause he believed, right, that his convictions were deep and true.

Now, as you and I move toward the close of this age in which we happen to be living, and it's my own personal conviction that Jesus Christ will soon be back for his church, it is to note with sadness of heart, a doctrinal declension and less and less teaching of the truth, of the doctrines of the word of God. It is almost a crime these days, and some areas to stand firm, to express your convictions, or to bear witness to what you believe the Bible teaches. You see, too often we're afraid of being recorded as intolerant or we're afraid of being considered dogmatic. Now, these things didn't even bother this man Daniel in the Old Testament. He believed something and he didn't care who knew it. Mastication by the Lions was not nearly as bad as the desecration of his conscience and the denunciation of God should he turn back on the Lord. Oh, Christian, living in the 20th century. Living in nineteen hundred fifty eight. Living in the month of September. In this hour you can afford to be dogmatic, though there is a great need to be on guard against becoming, as some people have expressed, a bulldog, dogmatic. Dogma in the minds of some people has an unsavory connotation. But in reality, dogma is actually revealed doctrine, clearly taught and declared in statements of faith. It is therefore obvious that anyone who believes anything at all believes in dogma, whether it might be in matters of faith, and philosophy, and science or practice.

We need not be fooled by the widespread animosity to be found on every side to positive preaching and connection with a revealed Christian faith. The followers of present day isms and pagan religious systems put us to shame when it comes to these things because they're not afraid to go from house to house. They're not afraid to get on the radio. They're not afraid to be on television. They don't care what you think as long as they can put something across. They believe it and they preach it. And you and I ought to be the same way. Now, so-called Applied Christianity is no substitute for biblical doctrine. It was Martin Luther who, like Daniel, was dogmatic. He had an abiding faith which caused him to open his window toward Jerusalem in the face of bitter persecution and priest-craft.

Yes, this man, Daniel, was obsessed with a deep seeded conviction and belief that the word of God was true. And then he had a great boldness. And I like this. Oh, I love this, my friend. This man of prayer possessed a holy boldness, born of an abiding conviction. The great leader did not want to invite trouble. His only motivation was his duty toward the Lord. But praise God this morning, the very thing which caused all of the difficulty, as described in Chapter 6, is that which helped him out of it. And you will never be bold for God unless you live close to the Lord himself. One might ask if Daniel was not needlessly rash. Could he not have retired to his palace chamber and prayed to God quietly? Could he not have waited until he got in bed and pull the covers over his head, and there quietly prayed and communed with the Lord? You see, one thing we need to remember relative to Daniel Chapter 6, and that is that the decree that came from Darius the King, that nobody should pray to any other God but him was openly published, and that everybody knew about Daniel's faith in the true God of Israel. Furthermore, Daniel had to remember that God's eye could behold all that was going on. And living in the light of His Heavenly Father, he determined to be spiritually true unto him. He walked openly

with his eyes open, with full understanding into the trap of these jealous rascals. And thank God he walked out of it by way of the lion's den to a glorious triumph before God. He flung himself on God, and the Lord carried him through. Now, isn't that always true, my friend? If you're willing to catch yourself upon the Lord, the Lord will see you through. Someone has well-written, "Putting up with things that cannot be helped means courage. Putting up with things that can be helped means cowardice." And this man of God had a real courage. And he faces his enemies without fear, because he had his eyes upon the living God.

Now God calls upon all of us to be bold and to open our windows in his direction. What we do for him is not to be done in the dark and behind drawn shades. We were never called upon to be disciples in the dark, but we were to live in the full light of the blazing day. Jesus Christ has reminded us that we are to shine as lights in the world, and the same boldness with which we approach his presence is the boldness that we must also reveal as we try to talk to men about him. May God deliver us from a cringing timidity. "Dare to be a Daniel," Go the words of the old hymn, "dare to stand alone." And I can remember as a boy a number of years ago in Sunday school, the teacher used to teach that little song to us, "Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone." Oh, how I remember it today.

This man Daniel never resorted to expediency. He did not meet craft with craft. It was not a battle of wits without jealous crowd. Nor was it a case of strategy. Neither was Daniel afraid of his work, nor did he worry about his salary. God was going to deliver him, and God was the one to be depended upon above everybody else. And as I think of this man of God, I think also of a sense of happiness and joy that must have filled his heart. Unquestionably, there was joy in the heart of this man, and there must have been a radiance upon his countenance. I do not believe anyone who ever saw Daniel kneeling in prayer before the window observed a scowl upon his

face. I'm sure it must have been a revealed joy of the Lord that men saw upon his countenance. The joy of living for the Lord and witnessing for God led him to open the window and to kneel in prayer three times a day.

You see, it's a wonderful experience to be motivated by the joy of the Lord and to be able to serve him in this particular manner. Duty is drudgery, unless we are impelled to it through sheer delight. I believe, my friend, that the happiest man on all the vast Persian Empire was the man whose life these wicked people were trying to get. Daniel's conscience was bringing him no trouble at all. His political career was brilliant, and best of all, he was on speaking terms with the Lord. He had no secret sins naving at the vitals of his life, and like David's, Daniel's Cup must have been running over. One cannot help but think of what Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites, said to the people when the laws of God had been read to them in the Old Testament. In the Book of Nehemiah chapter 8 and verse 10, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared. For this day is wholly unto our Lord. Neither be sorry for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

And from David's inspired pen, we read in Psalm 16 and 11, "And thou will show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy. And at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

And upon the tears stained pages of the Book of Jeremiah, we read out of chapter 15 and verse 61, "Thy words were found and I did eat them, and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart. For I am called by thy name all Lord of hosts."

You remember in John, 16, and verse 24, it was Jesus who said, "Hither to have ye asked nothing in my name. Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

In Romans 14 and verse 17, we hear the apostle Paul as he adds his word to this truth, "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

And again, we read in 2 Corinthians 7 and verse 4, "Great is my boldness of speech toward you. Great is my glorying of you, I am filled with comfort. I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."

And from the book of James, believe it or not, in Chapter 1 and 2, we read, "My Brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into different temptations."

Such, my friend, then is the will of God for you and me--that is to be filled with the joy of the Lord. It is a wonderful way in which to live. In his joy, we can be utterly independent of worldly circumstances. And I am sure that you and I will never know, until we meet Daniel on the other side, just how much joy was found in his own heart as he opened his window and as he kneeled down to pray three times a day.

Yes, but not only did he have happiness and not only did this man, Daniel, have deep faith, and abiding belief, and boldness, but here was a man who had a great, great burden upon his heart. And in that respect, he was like the apostle Paul, and he ought to be like you and me. I'm confident that Daniel had a burden for the very men who were trying to take his life. We see him praying thrice every day. What was the burden of his praying? What requests did he make known unto God? Is it not reasonable, my friend, to feel, even though we're not told what it is, that, among other things, he probably asked God that touched the hearts and souls of the men who were bringing him torment? This is the genius of Christianity. The good of others lies at the very heart of the grace of God. Indifference to the welfare of our fellow beings, is utterly foreign to the Christ whose name we bear and whom we profess to love.

Jesus was never indifferent to the needs of those around him. He never looked upon the company of people without being moved with compassion. He came all the way from heaven to earth in order to seek and to save that which was lost. Love cannot do otherwise, my friend. It was love that caused God to surrender his own Son to the Cross of Calvary. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The motive that control the whole life of Jesus Christ, was the principle of love which expressed itself in giving. And this is peculiar to Christianity.

It was a Mohammedan who once said, "I know that Christians are the best of all the religions of the world. And how do you know? Queried the bystander. You're a Muslim. What do you know about the teachings of Christ? If I go to a priest, said the Muslim, he says to me, Give. If I go to Mula, he says to me, give. If I go to an official or to a friend, he says to me, give. Everybody says, give, give, give. But the Christians alone say take; their schools, say take, their teachings, say take. And their charities say the same thing. By this, I know that they are the best because they are always giving, giving, giving something to somebody."

Without doubt, my friend Daniel prayed for these men, along with the prayers for his own Hebrew friends and his own captive people, the people of Israel. I imagine he prayed for Ezekiel, a mighty captive prophet. He prayed for his ruler. He prayed for the people of the vast kingdom. But us ever, bear in mind, my friend, that until we come to the place, like Daniel of old, where we're willing to stand up and to be counted and not be ashamed of the Lord Jesus Christ, then it is that you and I will be useful to the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet's deliverance, I'm sure, is known to us all. In the den of lions. He spent a very peaceful night. In fact, he had more rest than the King did, who went to bed. He might as well a pillow to his head upon a lamb, because God was there, and God knows how to take care of lions, my friend. It is a great

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experience when we learn to let God do what we cannot do. It takes away all our worry. It takes away all our defeat. We need to pray for our enemies and God will take care of the rest. Yes, Daniel was a man who stood firm and who stood true when everybody else was trying to get away. Dare to be a Daniel. Dare to stand alone, is the message I want to leave with your own heart.

Our father, we thank the this morning for the privilege of recognizing Jesus Christ as our own Lord and savior. We praise the, for one who was not ashamed to go to the cross for us. Help us so God, not to be ashamed to speak a good word for him. And like Daniel of old, may our convictions be deep. May they cover our hearts. And, dear Lord, may they come through our lips, for we pray it in Jesus name and for his sake. Amen.

Announcer:

The Biola radio department has just presented Dr. Lloyd T. Anderson, pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church of West Covina, speaking in place of Dr. Louis Talbot's regular verse by verse broadcast.