

(1). "How to keep from getting hurt".

Introd:- (1). TOPIC..Nothing could be more up to date.. Guns have safety catches..cars have safety belts..cities have "safety-first" campaigns..slogans..signs..Banks have safety deposit vaults....and optimists build fall-out shelter i.e if optimistic enough to think they will be of any use.

(2). But today let me read you from God's Book the one infallible way of never getting hurt. "In the Bible?" Where else expect find so wonderful a thing? Here it is..Daniel 6:23. Faith as possibly be put. Lesson clear. **FAITH IN GOD IS THE BEST PROTECTION MAN CAN EVER HAVE.** True? Or feel that there is argument about it?

STORY

I. That statement is today contested by many in mult.ways

(a). We are today encircled by ring of teachers who assert that faith in God, as a principle by which to live, is the obsolete conception of an unscientific, unenlightened and credulous day now past. In other words..I'm an old fogey!

1. The ^{unscientific} Psychologists and their satellites say that the great thing today is faith in one's self! Building of a "superiority complex"..achievement thru self-realization BUT to such we say that there are deeper yearnings of human heart than psych. has ever plumbed..Faith in ourselves is poor pillow to lay weary heart when sickness, poverty, sorrow, cruel frustrations leave us bruised and fevered, No balm of Gilead there. Self superiority comforting as an iceberg to freezing man!

2. Biologists would have us put faith in humanity as a species..climbing..evolving to higher things..soon to reach the "happy ever after" stage. Bravely preaching this upward progress..despite millions of "missing links" that never were..Poor, proud, educated sillies..willing to believe in bubbles rather than in God.

To such we remind that each human is an individual with individual needs of each separate heart. Biology no help.

3. Nationalists and materialists. Faith in Physical power National consciousness thru. totalitarian States. They say "What do we know about the Beyond or spiritual matters Put faith in concrete things..where "might is right". But longings of human heart are not for mere physical prot

but for a sense of SPIRITUAL security. An awakened soul is not merely crying for protec. from atomic bomb..but salvation from SIN..fitness to MEET GOD. SUPREME PROBLEM And so repeat:- Dan.6:23..Truest wisdom and best security is found in FAITH IN GOD.

II. Now look at story around this great statement..text.

(a). Dan. 6:23. Surely we und. at once this "belief" was far more than mere essent to the existence of God. Whole story points this up. Daniel's belief, more of heart than head. Daniel utterly DEPENDED on God for salvation, preservation, vindication against the ungodly. Look at four features.

(b). First:- CLARITY OF HIS FAITH. Lot of vagueness about in Dan's day..Own people's beliefs muddled with idolatry. So today. But Dan. clear about God's wisdom..sovereignty..for-knowledge..holiness..almightiness..faithfulness. All thru. thi Book. Where get it? From Scriptures..plus first-hand exper. We too can.."Know it in the head..Stow it in the heart..Show it in the life..Sow it in the world".

(c). Second:- LOYALTY OF HIS FAITH. Israel had been disloyal to God..and yet here Daniel stood..unmoveable..ready to face and brave the lions rather than fail His God. Wrking faith. Don't be wax-work X'n..all wax, no work! Don't sing "Stand up for Jesus"..then scamper away at first rifle-crack! Good solda

(d). Third:- FIXITY OF HIS FAITH. He had a settled agreement with God. He believed in Him! Fixed. "The will of God..nothing less, nothing more, nothing else..at all costs".

Niemoller in prison in Germany..bec. refused to put state bef. God..Prison chaplain called.."Why are you in prison, brother?" Ans'd.."Why are you NOT in prison, brother?"

(e). Fourth:- CERTAINTY OF HIS FAITH. Daniel believed in HIS God. Not only learnt about..but met personally..relationships there. So now "Jesus is MY Saviour, not only by outward profess but by inward experience."

III. Now look at other side..God's care of Daniel is here.

(a). "No manner of hurt was found on him". Glorious statement!

1. It was MIRACULOUS CARE. Lions suffered strangest lock-jaw ever heard of! Angelic lock-jaw! (c/f Satanic lock-jaw..???)

Miracles today? YOU CAN'T BE BORN AGAIN WITHOUT ONE! Nor empowered by the Holy Ghost for the service of God. God cares for us naturally, yes..but miraculously too.

2. It was INSTRUCTIVE CARE. God did not save Daniel from being PUT INTO the lion's den..but saved him IN it. Saints do not have less troubles than the ungodly..More..But God is there every time..not to save FROM..but IN..and bring THROUGH. Faith is tried, tested, strengthened, taught. God allows His jewel to be put on the lapidary's wheel..that they may BECOME more polished and beautiful..though the cutting process is hard.

3. It was a COMPLETE CARE. "No MANNER of hurt". Dr Montgomery of Irish Belfast:- "When Darius the King called aloud to Daniel in his den, to learn if he had survived, Daniel replied that the lions had not even CHEWED A BUTTON OFF".

But here we meet an objection from some Other of God's peopl

Have suffered..died..martyrdom. Fever, maladies in far places..executioners axe..Auc's spears..?? Yes..but we look on the physical, temporal things..see only that. Which was greater triumph, think ye, David slaying Goliath with stone..or Stephen crying out, as sank beneath hail of stones, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge?" One was merely PHYSICAL victory..other a mighty SPIRITUAL one. Do you think some manner of hurt was found on Stephen when angels crowded around to escort to feet of Lord Jesus Paul had his head cut off! But in heaven.."No manner of hurt there". Look ahead! Nobody can hurt God's own! Every seeming attack simply stores up a more exceeding weight of glory..Most the worst enemy can do is to give you a martyr's crown!

4. This was CONVINCING CARE. When Darius saw it..he turned to worship the living God..and published that fact to all nations of his empire. God was glorified.

Conclus: (1) As read this..we say "What an ordeal" ..but when come to end..we cry "What a sequel"!

Here is place of complete. perfect. eternal safety..He believed in his God! DO YOU? There is NT counterpart to this text..ROM. 8:28. How wonderful to be held in His loving care. ARE YOU? Do you believe? Listen to this:- John 5:24. Glorious! How to keep from getting hurt! First step:- To Christ..as Saviour..Then a daily yielding of life into His hands..trusting..serving.. in complete confidence. There will be "no manner of hurt found on YOU" ..but only His GOOD..for GOOD..For ever.

(2) Don't be Dared - dare to stand alone
" .. have a purpose firm - dare to make it known.
Venture for God! - in witness - in finance - in mission field.
c/f Abraham - Gen. 22:1

Pleasant Hill, Bath, Ch - Calgary - Oct 21/62
Wainwright VFC - MAR 17/62 - 1000? (with choir)