

WHO ARE CELEBRATING SUCH IMPORTANT MILESTONES THIS WEEK!

SPECIAL APPEAL

PLEASE:

-Verse of the Wee

- 1. Remember that the new date for resumption of worship at ANAT is July 26.
- 2. Get a test for COVID-19, as a matter of urgency.
- 3. Remember that in the interest of doing things "decently and in order," all members (except for selected workers) are required to register online for the service that you desire to attend.
- 4. Remember that members who registered for the services first announced for either June 21 or 28, need not register again.

THOUGHT PROVOKING

"TRUE HAPPINESS...is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

-Helen Keller

"And JESUS answering saith unto them, Have faith in God." MARK 11:22



Sunday, Dune 28

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he music must have been right on point—excellent, and customized to influence the hearers to bow and worship the golden image made by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. The consequence of disobeying the king's decree was death-death by fire. How scary!

The time came. The musicians played skillfully. As they did so, everyone in the province bowed and worship the image, except for three Hebrew young men who were captives in Babylon, and who were devoted servants of Jehovah.

On hearing of the action of the young men, the king—with rage and fury—summoned them to appear before him. When they did, he decided to give them a second chance. These were his words. "Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet...., ye fall down and worship the image which 1 have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a

burning fiery furnace;...." (Daniel 3:15)

The young men's response was swift, definite, and loaded with resolve. "...Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace,....¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Daniel 3:17-18)

These three young men took a stand, and boldly declared it. They were not made by the history of Babylon. They made history in Babylon. They were transformed non-conformists. This is what God wants us to be. (Romans 12:1-2) Let us, therefore, stand up for love, righteousness, justice, and peace. Let us never fail to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

The story of the young men ended miraculously. God delivered them not from the fire but in the fire. It always pays to take a stand for the Lord. He will never, never let His people down!



Please continue to participate in the services via Livestream until further notice at: https://livestream.com/accounts/5275299

> WEDNESDAY: Bible Study - 7:30 p.m. Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m. SUNDAY:

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The Church and Social Decuce

"How much then is a man better than a sheep?" (Matthew 12:12)

In the text above, Jesus made it abundantly clear that people are more valuable than sheep and, ves, by extension, all other animals, or mammals. The birds are included also. "...Ye are of more value than many sparrows," said Jesus to His disciples. (Matthew 10:31)

Why is a human being more valuable than a sheep?

Firstly, God created man in His image, thereby endowing him with moral awareness, a will, and the capacity to reason. (Genesis 1:27; James 3:9)

Secondly, man was made for communion with God and to exercise dominion over the fish of the sea, fowl of the air, and cattle. (Genesis 1:26)

Thirdly, Christ died for man in order to provide salvation (Romans 5:7-8). Someone has rightly said, "it is man's value that explains the redemption story."

Now, when we speak of social issues, we are referencing that which affects people within a society. Since people are more

valuable to God than sheep, they should be more valuable to us also.

This sense of value is expressed not in words only, but in very tangible ways also. For example, giving meat to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothes to the naked, as well as visiting the sick and those in prison. (Matthew 25:35-40)

The Church must not fail in its mission to do these things. At the same time, it must maintain perspective in purpose so that it will "keep the main thing the main thing." The main thing is preaching the gospel of Christ, which, alone, can provide deliverance from sin-man's basic problem.

Significantly, it is deliverance from sin that leads to acts of love, compassion, mercy, justice, peace, kindness, respect, and honor to all regardless of color, race, creed, social, economic, and political standings.

The Church must raise its voice against sin in all its varied forms in the hope that one day justice will "run down as waters. and righteousness as a mighty stream." (Amos 5:24)

Sadly, our world is in trouble! And it needs a Church in revival!