

***The Crime of Non-Participation: No Other Gods Before Me***

Daniel 3

- I. The faithful refuse to participate in man-made religion (3:1-15). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not worship the image the king had set up.
  - A. Participation in man-made religion is expected (3:1-7). All the peoples were required to worship the image the king had set up.
  - B. Non-participation in man-made religion is unacceptable (3:8-15). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego didn't worship the image the king had set up.
  
- II. The faithful reply with commitment to God alone (3:16-18). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said they serve only their God.
  - A. The faithful confess their allegiance to God (3:17a).
  - B. The faithful confess their faith in God's ability to deliver (3:17b).
  - C. The faithful confess their submission to God's free will (3:18a).
  - D. The faithful confess their resolve to obey God's revealed will (3:18b).
  
- III. The faithful risk their lives to serve God alone (3:19-30). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chose to burn instead of bow.
  - A. Persecution follows the faithful who serve God alone (3:19-24). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were cast into the fire.
  - B. Protection follows the faithful who serve God alone (3:24-27). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were unharmed by the fire.
  - C. Praise follows the faithful who serve God alone (3:28-30). Nebuchadnezzar exalted (the God of) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

