**Abundant Life Church**

**Sunday, August 9th, 2020**

**Title: A People of Prayer**

**Text:**

10  Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.

15  Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, "Recognize, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or statute which the king establishes may be changed."
16  Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you."
17  A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.
**Daniel 6:10, 15-17 (NASB)**

**Introduction:**

Set the scene and give background.

A people of conviction, a people of courage, a people of persistent prayer.

The full power of the state was arrayed against Daniel in this insane decree, designed to end all prayer for 30 days.

**The Seduction of the State**

7  "All the commissioners of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the high officials and the governors have consulted together that the king should establish a statute and enforce an injunction that anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the lions' den.
8  "Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document so that it may not be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which may not be revoked."
9  Therefore King Darius signed the document, that is, the injunction.
**Daniel 6:7-9 (NASB)**

King Darius seems like a good man when you read the whole story. He did not want to throw Daniel in the lion’s den but was bound by his own foolish injunction. Those people which hated Daniel used Darius’s vanity to seduce him to make a ridiculous law. They fanned the flames of his vanity and he took the bait.

There are responsibilities and a certain amount of authority which God grants the state or government. Primary among that biblical responsibility of government is punishment of those who do evil.

*3  For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;
4  for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing;* ***for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.*
Romans 13:3-4 (NASB)**

God has never given the state the responsibility or authority to meet the needs of all people.

God has given four things to see that your needs are met.

1. **Faith** – Matt. 6:33 Seek God’s kingdom first and He will meet all your needs.
2. **Work-**

He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have *something* to share with one who has need.
**Ephesians 4:28 (NASB)**

 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.
**2 Thessalonians 3:10 (NASB)**

1. **Family-**

 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.
**1 Timothy 5:4 (NASB)**

 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
**1 Timothy 5:8 (NASB)**

1. **The Church**

 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.
**James 1:27 (NASB)**

The idea that every problem of our culture and society is going to be solved by a new law or government action is evidence of a people who have given up their personal responsibility and their faith in God for a false hope. Evil men manipulated the state to achieve their own lust for power and to remove any competition. Daniel’s wisdom and excellence were a threat to them. People of faith are always a threat to those who want an all-powerful state.

Governments across the world outright restrict freedom of religion, have anti-conversion laws and openly persecute Christians.

**The Pursuit of the Kingdom**

The power of God’s Kingdom is not distributed through Kings, Princes, Presidents or Congress’s – it flow through the man or woman who gives themselves to God in prayer. To seek God’s will and pray it through. The prayer they were trying to stop:

*…I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God…*
**Daniel 9:2b-4a (NIV)**

*"I FEAR THE PRAYERS OF JOHN KNOX MORE THAN ALL THE ARMIES OF ENGLAND." -*

Mary Queen of Scotland (BLOODY MARY) ~~~~~~~~~~

'JOHN KNOX (1505-1572)

JOHN KNOX was a Scottish clergyman and leader of the Protestant Reformation who brought reformation to the church in Scotland. Imprisoned during the late 1540’s for supporting the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, Knox prayed daily, “Lord, give me Scotland, or I die”.

By the time he died in 1572, Scotland had been transformed and the Scottish Parliament had adopted the Reformation doctrines. Some of the first missionaries to America were from Scotland.