

July 29, 2018

### Daniel and King Darius

After over 60 years serving well in Babylon, Daniel is once again put in a difficult situation by the jealousy of others and the legalism of the court. A conspiracy, born out of envy, was woven against Daniel and it forced the King to rule against him and throw him into a pit of lions. King Darius didn't want to - he knew it was wrong, but it was "the law."

Still today, we believe in the rule of law. But there is often a difference between what is legal and what is just. While the law can create the environment for justice, legalism can sometimes work against it. Any examples come to mind?

### How Can I Have Peace with God?

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and joy and a good life - abundant and eternal. The Bible says in John 3.16 - ***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*** And the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5.1 - ***We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*** So it's clear in the Bible that God loves us and wants us to have a good life. But why then don't most people have this peace and happy life that God planned for us?



The problem is our separation from God. God created us in His own image to have a good life. But he gave us free will instead of making us robots who automatically love and obey Him. We must choose to follow God and choose (daily) to obey his rules and the teachings of his son, Jesus. When we choose other than obedience to God, we sin. Sin is that which breaks relationship. And it creates distance or separation between us and God. Romans 3.23 says: ***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*** In other words, we all sin. We have all made

bad choices and hurt our relationship with God and perhaps our relationships with others. Sin separates. And it has consequences that are unpleasant. Romans 6.23 teaches: ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

So our sin is the problem. And Jesus is the solution. People try lots of other ways to get right with God again. They try good works to make up for their misdeeds; or they try religion, philosophy, morality, wealth, or they try to ignore the problem altogether. The only way to bridge the gap that sin creates between us and God, is the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. And he rose from the grave to bridge the gap between God and people. 1 Peter 3.18 says: ***For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*** What no amount of effort on our part could achieve, God did for us in Christ.

So all you have to do is receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Repent of your sin and ask Jesus to save you. You will then receive Jesus' forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit to help you grow in wisdom and faith. Romans 10.9 says: ***That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.***

The invitation to receive Jesus Christ and be put right with God is offered to everyone. But the choice belongs to every individual. You can receive Jesus Christ and be forgiven of your sins, or you can resist him and remain separated from God. Have you chosen Jesus yet?