DEDICATING ALL TO GOD

**4** Children in whom *was* no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as *had* ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. Dan 1:4 (KJV)

 For some reason we sometimes think that to be a spiritual person for the Lord we must be totally ignorant of all other things. Daniel 1:4 teaches us otherwise. In fact we find that Daniel and his three companions were quite wise in things other than religion also. They were skillful in wisdom, cunning in knowledge, understanding in science and had learned the manner in which to stand in the presence of kings.

 Being skillful in wisdom meant that they were capable of every kind of literary accomplishment. Our children today should see the need of education. God uses these things in our lives. He certainly used these skills in the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meschach and Obednego. It is also plain to see that they had advanced themselves well in knowledge without sacrificing their love and devotion to God. Even though we live in a very worldly society it is absolutely possible to maintain our dedication to Christ.

 Daniel and his friends proved beyond a doubt that they could be well favoured among the Babylonian kings. Are we not called on to do the same today? We are to pray for our leaders and be true to our government as long as it does not require us to compromise our values that are instilled by The Lord and set according to His Word. Daniel had to make a decision on his prayer life that put him in the lion’s den. God saved him. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to make a decision on whether to bow to the king’s idol or not. They chose not to bow and were thrown into the fiery furnace. God saved them. High levels of leadership had been achieved by Daniel and his friends with their dedication and education shining brightly. In the end their faithfulness to God shined the brightest. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius would recognize Daniel’s God and the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

 Our God should be recognized through our faithfulness to him. The love we have for him should be seen in the way we live our lives. We can be a dedicated student, employee, friend, or spouse and still be faithful to our Lord.

 Lord, take all we are and make us all we should be for the sake of your cause in this world. May You, through us, make this world a better place for us, our children, and our children’s children. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram