

**“The World Seems Out Of Control, But God Is With Us”**

**Daniel 3**

**Sermon Series: “The World Seems Out Of Control, But...”**

**1. Background:** Here are some ways it seems like the world is out of control, specifically in relation to how God’s people are treated (we tend to think that if we know Jesus everything should go well).

**A. It seems like God’s enemies are winning.**

**B. God’s people are confronted with the idols of this world. (1 John 5:21).**  
Everybody is a worshipper. The only question is who or what are we worshipping?

**C. God’s people are often criticized and sometimes even persecuted by the people of this world (Matthew 5:11-12).**

-Nebuchadnezzar’s question at the end of v. 15 shows that he was really challenging God. His treatment of them was about his heart condition and rejection of the true and living God. When people mistreat us for being Christians, it is really about how they feel about Jesus and not ultimately us if they truly are mistreating us for following Jesus and not just for being jerks (John 15:18-21).

**2. Conviction: The world seems out of control, but God is present with us and is able to deliver us (v. 16-18, 23-25).**

-James being martyred and Peter spared (at least temporarily)

**-God can (heal, deliver, protect, rescue my wayward child, provide), but even if He doesn’t, I will stand firm and not bow down.**

**3. Christ Connections:**

**A. Jesus is always present with those who follow Him (Matthew 1:23, Hebrews 13:5b-6).**

**B. Jesus identifies with His church in the midst of persecution (Acts 9:1-4) and will avenge them in the future (Revelation 11:15-18, 16:5-6).**

**C. Jesus came to deliver us from our sins (Zechariah 3:1-2).**

**4. Action: We will resist false gods, stand firm in the face of opposition, and testify to the work of Jesus for us.**

-Talk about what they said in v. 16-18

-Discuss resisting idols

-Discuss standing firm when opposed

-Discuss testifying for Jesus

-What produced the conviction that led to this kind of action in them and can do the same for us?

**A. Know and obey the Word of God (Exodus 20:1-5). [James 1:22-25]**

**B. Trust that God is able to deliver us, but make up our minds that we will not compromise even if God chooses not to deliver us.**

**C. Count the cost, and realize there is a price to be paid either way.**

**D. Live as a living sacrifice (v. 28), Romans 12:1)**

-How do you kill somebody who is already dead?

**E. Recognize that our stand becomes a witness for Jesus (v. 28-30).**

**Conclusion:** Has Jesus delivered you from your sin?

Are you standing firm for Him?