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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

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Prayer Meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham on Monday evening 30.7.73

Hymn : 952

Reading:- Daniel 3.1-15; Psalm 29

This chapter reveals some sad things as pertaining to this Pagan king. He had been a witness on more occasions than one, that there was only ONE GOD, the true GOD which he had acknowledged, yet soon, very soon he turns away to his own idolatrous worship, and sets up an image. This image is considered to be about 15 times the height of a man, other parts in proportion, and it is said to be of gold. On this occasion all the assembly were under command (at the cost of a fiery death) to fall down and worship it when the music commenced. As we read the Scriptures, we see that in a number of instances idolatrous worship was a cardinal sin.

After the children of Israel were brought out of Egypt and were delivered through the Red Sea, in the absence of Moses Aaron made a golden calf and worshipped it. It seems to have been according to the mind of the natural man to have something material, something they could set their eyes upon and adore it. Sad to say, this idolatry has not ended with these records that we have in Holy Scripture, but has continued through the ages of time and continues today. Idolatrous worship of images are not only in Roman Catholic ritual, but in some professing Protestant Churches. This form of idolatry is rooted in the heart of fallen man. He must see something; but with the Lord's dear people, as we have been singing, it is not worshipping something that can be seen with our mortal eyes, but an unseen invisible God, the Majesty of heaven, Who fills heaven and earth. This God is the only proper object of worship!

Whatever we set our affections upon as taking the first place, and neglect the worship of true God, we become idolatrous - and how many even of the Lord's people have been guilty of this, not in the

actual setting up of images, but in certain things that have taken the place of the Lord in the heart, and have become a matter of secret idolatry. We all need to be kept.

Now here we have read of three godly men. It seems strange that we read nothing of Daniel here, although he was in a position of great honour, and sat in the gate of the king: yet, Daniel does not appear on this occasion. Possibly he was taken away on some other business; but here were three godly men who worshipped the One and only true God, and nothing, whatever it might cost them, even a burning fiery furnace, heated seven times hotter, moved them from the worship of their own God. To bow down to idols they would not. It was a matter of turn or burn, but burn they would rather than turn. Though they were cast into the furnace, the Lord preserved them, so that there was not the smell of fire upon them, nor a hair of their head singed. This can be an encouragement to the Lord's people. He is still the same God.

May we be helped to cleave to the Lord and still be favoured to worship Him in spirit and in truth.