

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

April 29, 2013

Standing For Righteousness

DANIEL 3:13-18 NLT – (13) Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in, (14) Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up? (15) I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments. But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?" (16) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. (17) If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. (18) But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

In June and July 2012, Chick-fil-A Chief operating officer Dan T. Cathy made several public statements supporting what he believes to be "the traditional family," saying about same-sex marriage that those who "have the audacity to define what marriage is about" were "inviting God's judgment on our nation". S. Truett Cathy, the 89-year-old founder and chairman of Chick-fil-A, the second largest chicken-based fast-food chain in the United States, put his money where his faith is. Cathy has mandated that every Sunday, all of his restaurants be closed to allow staff time to worship. In January 2011, the media reported that Chick-fil-A was co-sponsoring a marriage conference with the Pennsylvania Family Institute (PFI), an organization that has opposed same-sex marriage legislation. Chick-fil-A clarified that "one of our independent Restaurant Operators in Pennsylvania was asked to provide sandwiches for two Art of Marriage video seminars." As a part of this story, the Win Shape Foundation, a charitable organization founded by CEO T. Cathy and his wife, stated it would not allow same-sex couples to participate in its marriage retreats.

"Religion is at the key of the family-operated business" stated Cathy, whose son, Dan, is the chief operating officer and whose other son, Bubba, is a vice president. According to the family head, "Our decision to close on Sundays was our way of honoring God and directing our attention to things more important than our business." The company's stance on religion is so serious that part of its mission statement states: The purpose of Chick-fil-A is to glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A. Cathy has also told Forbes magazine, "The Lord has never spoken to me, but I feel Chick-fil-A has been His gift."

And what can we learn from this? Like the three Hebrew children, we need to know God by means of a true and genuine relationship. When we get this kind of relationship with Him we will not have any desire to bow down, worship anything or anyone else. When you have a true and genuine relationship with God you only want to worship the true and living God. Our faith will be so strong; we will know that God is able to deliver us out of any situation. I have found in my walk with the Lord that anything I really have a desire to do, God gives me the ability. There is only strength when you stand for righteousness and honor God entirely. Like Mr. Cathy, refuse to compromise what you know is right. Yes, there will be opposition, but if God is for you, who can be against. Stand for righteousness!

SCRIPTURE READING

EZEKIEL 14:14

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When you have to start compromising yourself or your morals for the people around you, it's probably time to change the people around you.



April 1, 2012