

## **IN TIMES LIKE THESE**

### **Part 3: When the Heat is On**

**TEXT: (2 Timothy 3:1 NKJV)**

#### **TIMES OF PRESSURE**

- Ways of handling cultural pressure
  1. Comply - to act in accordance with the demands and wishes of another
  2. Condemn - to pronounce judgment against
  3. Contrast - to show differences
- Called to contrast (**Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV**)
  1. Living by a different standard
  2. Operating with a different spirit - we were meant to shine

#### **WHEN THE HEAT WAS ON (Daniel 3:13-18 NKJV)**

- The three were unwilling to comply with the pressure
  1. They would not serve Babylonian gods
  2. They were unwilling to compromise the convictions of their heart
- They displayed an uncommon courage in the face of pressure
  1. The risk was more than losing a job; it was losing their lives
  2. When given a second chance, they did not back up
- They had confidence in the Living God
  1. A confident answer - if you throw us in, God can and will deliver us
  2. Two variations of the phrase - but if not
  3. King Nebuchadnezzar turned the heat up - literally
- And God showed up (**Daniel 3:21-25 NKJV**)
  1. Three men went in bound - but four walking around loose and unharmed
  2. King Neb walked back his decree

#### **WHEN THE HEAT IS ON TODAY**

- People of conviction
  1. An unshakable belief without the need of proof
  2. Our belief is in God's unchanging word and powerful Spirit (**2 Timothy 3:13-15 NKJV**)
- People of courage
  1. The willingness to act in accordance with what we believe
  2. Willingness to stand when cultural pressure is to bow - culture, home, work, friendships, school
  3. Courage is a godly trait (**Joshua 1:7 NKJV**)
- People of confidence in God
  1. Confidence in the reality of the living God
  2. Confidence is God's willingness to be involved and help us (**Hebrews 13:5-6 NKJV**)