

IN TIMES LIKE THESE

Part 4: Facing the Lions

TEXT: (2 Timothy 3:1 NKJ)

COSTS AND BENEFITS OF A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD

- ◆ Costs associated
 - Respect - some circles are dismissive of believers
 - Relationships - a commitment to the Lord Jesus can divide
 - Reproach - expressed criticism, and attempts to shame
- ◆ Benefits that outweigh the costs **(1 Timothy 4:8 NKJ)**
 - Doing better - more peace, joy, sense of purpose
 - Better relationships - less pressure on people
 - Profits in two realms - this life and the one to come

DANIEL AND THE LIONS (Daniel 6:3-5, 7, 10-11 NKJ)

- ◆ Standing out for the right reasons
 - Daniel had an excellent spirit
 - Had no areas that could be exploited
 - Daniel's commitment to God the only area used against him
- ◆ Daniel's relationship with God was big in his life
 - Prayed and gave thanks 3x a day
 - God was bigger in his life than his fears
- ◆ The most powerful man in the world had no answers **(Daniel 6:18-23 NKJ)**
 - The king could not sleep - no answers and no peace
 - He did not believe Daniel would be ok - did not know Daniel's God
- ◆ God delivered Daniel from the lions
 - The God who created the heavens and earth is bigger than lions
 - Daniel's faith in God made a difference **(Daniel 6:28 NKJ)**

HOW CAN WE FACE THE LIONS OF TODAY?

- ◆ Stand out for the right reasons
 - Because we have an excellent spirit **(1 Timothy 4:12 NKJ)**
 - Known for our honesty, faithfulness, wisdom, positive
- ◆ Make our relationship with God a bigger part of our lives
 - One step closer than we are right now **(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJ)**
 - Don't wait until the lion's den to start praying
- ◆ God is still bigger and stronger than the lions that come our way
 - Our faith in Him is important **(1 John 5:4-5 NKJ)**
 - He still delivers and did not run out of angels
 - He can still cause us to thrive despite the culture