

A Foolish Law

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Daniel 6:14-15, "Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed."

It is hard to imagine how ignorant man can become. Think of it man deciding that he was so smart that he could not make a mistake. Then coming to a point where he would make a law to make it impossible for him to change a bad law. Man is prone to make mistakes and no one could seriously doubt the truth of that. The Medes and the Persians made a law that said that no one, not even the king, could stop, or change, a law once he had signed it. The laws of man sometimes need to be changed for one reason, or another. The Lord, the God of Heaven and earth, is the only one who made laws and commandments, that never need, or ever can

be changed.

It would appear that the king was angry at himself when he realized that he had been led into making a foolish law. Flattery had prompted him to make a law where no man was to pray, or ask a petition, of any god, but to ask of him only. And then it was for only thirty days. Shouldn't that have tipped him off to the fact that these men only wanted to achieve some temporary purpose? How vain he must have been to even consider such a law.

He was not the only king to fall to vanity and to make a foolish law and then to want to change it, but couldn't. King Ahasuerus also made a law that he would have changed but could not. **(Esther 8:8.)** Haman had got him to agree to destroy a people, the Jews, without naming them. Ahasuerus did not even find out why a nation of people should be killed, he just went along with it. Later he would do what he could to help the Jews, but again the silly law that said that a law once passed had to be carried out.

Man changes with time and circumstances and some of his needs change too. I have three books with strange and weird laws in them. These were passed many years ago and may have had a purpose at the time but now they are foolish to us. Our

laws can be, and sometimes are, changed as needs and conditions change. We can only wonder how the Medes and Persians came to the conclusion that any law that the king passed would never need to be changed. You would think that with such a law in place that they would be the more careful about the laws that would be established.

Which law was the most foolish in the situation concerning Daniel? First, think of the law that was passed for thirty days in which no one was to pray to any god, and the only one who could be petitioned, or prayed too, was the king. I can't imagine why the king would agree to such a law, and if he thought it good, why for only thirty days? How foolish can a person be? Then to have a rule, or law, in place that said that even the king could not rectify, or change, a bad law. Both of these laws were examples of the foolish ways of men.

It is good for us that we can change our ways when we realize that we are in error. No one has to continue in a wicked, or foolish, way of life. God grants us the ability to change our life and to turn to him for forgiveness. The choice is ours and the path that we choose is going to lead us to eternal life or to eternal death.

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A KING'S JEALOUSY

WHEN KING SAUL, BESET BY MELANCHOLY AND INSANITY FIRST LAID EYES ON DAVID, THE BIBLE REPORTS THAT SAUL "LOVED HIM GREATLY" (1 SAM.16:21). SO MUCH SO, THAT SAUL MADE DAVID HIS ARMOUR-BEARER AND CALLED UPON HIM TO REFRESH HIS SPIRITS WHENEVER HE, SAUL, WAS SO DISTURBED! HOWEVER, DAVID WAS SO VALIANT AGAINST THE PHILISTINES AND SO SUCCESSFUL WHENEVER THEY MET IN BATTLE THAT WOMEN IN ALL THE ISRAELITE CITIES USED TO SING PRAISES TO DAVID ABOVE THAT TO KING SAUL! (1 SAM.18:6-9) THE JEALOUSY THAT WAS INSTIGATED IN SAUL'S MIND ERASED ANY FEELINGS OF LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP FOR DAVID TO BE REPLACED WITH THE DESIRE TO KILL DAVID AT ALL COSTS! (1 SAM.19:1).



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