

**Date: March 8, 2020**

**Sermon Title: But If Not**

**Speaker: Richard Smith**

**Scripture text(s): Daniel 3:1-20, Revelation 13:1 & 6**

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- 1) "We died before we left." Discuss this quote from a Fijian missionary. What kind of mindset do you need in order to say this?
- 2) Richard said, "The reason Jesus came was to be humiliated on the cross...But not so with world religions. Their god has never suffered humiliation. Therefore, their followers, when they believe they are feeling a sense of humiliation, respond with attack because their god never received attack upon himself. So, they resort to a fear induced obedience." Discuss ways this has played out in our culture.
- 3) Discuss the different ways we can compromise in order to "save our lives."
- 4) Read Daniel 3:1-15. What is the situation Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego find themselves in? How is it they did not compromise?
- 5) Richard pointed out that the first temptation isn't quite as hard as the second, third, or fourth temptation. Why?
- 6) Read Daniel 3:16-17. What are they NOT saying? What is the meaning of what they ARE saying? How can they talk like this?
- 7) Read verse 18. Discuss this statement of faith. What did Richard say you need to see before you can see this. (Refer to Tim Keller's quote that is found on the church website attached to the sermon.)
- 8) "Christ's presence guarantees our safety from eternal judgment." Read Daniel 3:24-25. How is this displayed here?
- 9) "Christ's presence strengthens us as God leads us into suffering." Read verses 24-25 again. What did Nebuchanezzar see? What does the scripture say the 3 men saw? When suffering comes, what can we trust to always be true?