



## ***“Believers in Babylon” Daniel 1 & 6***

**Calvary Monument Bible Church**

**September 10, 2023      Pastor Robert Reid**

We often feel like we are strangers and pilgrims in this world that is increasingly hostile to who we are and what we believe. This is not a new feeling. Peter wrote to a church, “Dear friends, I warn you as ‘temporary residents and foreigners’ to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God...” (1 Peter 2:11-12 NLT). Daniel knew about living in a pagan world. Today we see he not only survived – he thrived. Daniel demonstrates how to live in a hostile culture. It requires people of character who are focused upon God and His honor, not upon their wellbeing and culture’s approval.

### ***FIRST TIME PERIOD WE LEARN***

#### ***I. Believers in Babylon need to establish convictions (Ch. 1) (Daniel in his teens)***

- A. Life in a culture bent on altering them (3-7)
- B. Life willing to be lived counterculturally (8-13)
- C. Life in a culture antagonistic to Jehovah (1-2)
- D. Life was honored by God for being countercultural (17-20)

### ***SECOND TIME PERIOD WE LEARN***

#### ***II. Believers in Babylon need to maintain convictions (Ch.6) (Daniel in his 80’s)***

- A. Life was productive (1-3)
- B. Life was evaluated (5-9)
- C. Life practices were maintained (10)
- D. Life was condemned (11-17)
- E. Life was spared by Almighty God (18-24)
- F. Life impacted his culture (25-27)

### ***RESPOND***

1. Verses to memorize: Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:11-12

2. Questions to answer:

- What pressures do I face to conform to the culture around me? How are those pressures coming before me?
- In what way am I developing my heart to develop convictions to stand against the pressures of the world in which I live?

3. Ponder Alistair Begg’s thought, “The choice is clear: you are either going to do what Jesus says or you’re going to do what culture says.” So... honestly, who are we listening to?

4. What one thing will you do this week to purpose in your heart to not defile yourself? (1:8). Daniel had 3 friends to support him. You?