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## "The Gold Statue"

By: Steve Grissett

*"...you are to fall down and worship the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. But whosoever does not fall down, and worship will immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire." Daniel 3:5b-6 (CSB)*

I've always enjoyed this event regarding Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue and the consequences facing Daniel's three friends – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – as they refused to “fall down and worship” the gold statue. We know that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were accused, sentenced by Nebuchadnezzar, and thrown into the fiery furnace. But, they lived, and in fact, when Nebuchadnezzar investigated the furnace, he saw four people standing in the furnace, not the three. God rescues them from the fiery furnace, Nebuchadnezzar is astonished, and glorifies and praises the one true God. It's a wonderful story with a message how we should trust the Lord our God – El Shaddai (“God Almighty” in Hebrew) – and worship only Him.

As I studied Daniel Chapter 3, my focus kept going back to the gold statue. Basically, the gold statue is an idol. This idol was used by Nebuchadnezzar to make “the people of all nations and languages” (verse 7) glorify and worship him. Today, we see plenty of idols – gold statues – that vie for our attention (and yes, even worship). Our worldly culture flaunts it in our faces, tempting us to do “what feels good” with no moral compass. The idol list is very long (not an inclusive list) – alcohol, drugs (legal and illegal), employment, politics, patriotism, money, material wealth, sports, false religions (like prosperity gospel, new age, universalism, witchcraft, etc.). Let's not forget sexual sin – adultery, homosexuality, pornography, human trafficking – runs rampant in our secular society. The list goes on and on. Idols can creep into our lives without us even knowing it – it has happened to me in my past.

However, as Christians, our primary allegiance is to the Lord Jesus Christ! Our focus and worship are to be on Him. His Kingdom come; His Will be done! “Sola Christo” – in Christ alone. Men, please look at your lives and check yourselves. Is Jesus your primary focus? Do you have a “gold statue(s)” in your life that are hindering your walk with Jesus? Have you incorporated the spiritual disciplines – Bible study, prayer, worship, evangelism, service, etc. – into your daily life? Do we know God, or only know ABOUT God?

This week, I challenge each of us to examine ourselves to ensure we have no gold statues in the way of our allegiance and commitment to Jesus Christ. Praying for you always my brothers!

Steve serves on the Men of Shades Leadership Team. He is on the teaching team for the New Horizons Sunday School class. He can be reached at [s\\_grissett@yahoo.com](mailto:s_grissett@yahoo.com).

### Men of Shades Devotional

How about writing one devotion to share with the Men of Shades. Share your thoughts on a favorite Bible verse, a story from your life with an application from Scripture, or share a devotion written by a favorite writer that was particularly meaningful to you. Follow the parameters below and then send it to Steve Grissett at [s\\_grissett@yahoo.com](mailto:s_grissett@yahoo.com).

- Choose a favorite verse or verses (2 or 3).
- Write a short devotion of 200 to 300 words max.
- Add a title.
- Add one thought-provoking or reflective question at the end.
- Include a one or two sentence introduction of yourself.

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## Wednesday Night Kickoff

Let's kick off our Wednesday night activities this fall with a big celebration! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm around the Shades Pavilion and South Parking lot for food, games, activities, and fellowship as we re-launch our Wednesday night schedule. Stay tuned for more details.

[Learn More](#)

## Man Church

Our next Man Church is Sunday, August 29, and our guest speaker will be Dr. Robert, Smith, Jr. Dr. Smith is the Charles T. Carter Chair of Divinity at Samford's Beeson Divinity School. Dr. Smith pastored in Cincinnati for 20 years, and currently teaches preaching at Beeson. He has spoken at over 135 universities, colleges and seminaries across the globe. Mark your calendar and come hear a message of challenge and inspiration from Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. at Man Church on August 29 at 6:00pm.

[Learn More](#)

For more info on how to get involved with Men of Shades, visit [www.shades.org/men](http://www.shades.org/men)

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