

**DON'T GIVE UP – 4**  
**JANUARY 17, 2016**

**REVIEW:**

Paul's goal – To climb the mountain of God. To know Him, the power of His resurrection, fellowship of His suffering, and become the person Christ died for Him to be.

Paul's attitude – Nothing can prevent him from achieving his goals.

Paul's game plan – Forget the past, focus on the prize, proceed in the light of what he's already learned.

**CONTINUE:**

Article of Jahaziel

**CLIMBING ABOVE COMPROMISE – DANIEL 1**

Going through life, we all will be challenged in our decision making. We can decide to go with God despite the cost, or we can compromise or accept a standard that is lower than what God desires. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are names of four Hebrew boys whose lives reveal that in the most trying circumstances, we need not compromise.

**PROBLEMS**

**1. New surroundings. DAN. 1:1-3**

- A.** In Jerusalem they were in a protected environment. The temple, the priests, and the sacrifices, all pointed them to Jehovah. Now, they're in a new culture surrounded by heathen worship, images and people.
- B.** For Christians, it's easy to serve God in church. In the world, we can be vulnerable to compromise. **I COR. 15:33**

**2. New information. DAN. 1:4**

- A.** In Babylon, young people entered the re-education program at 14. They were exposed to a new way to view life and taught a new language. The goal was to get them to conform to the Babylonian lifestyle. The Babylonians were interested in the sciences – astronomy, astrology, magic...
- B.** Christians are not to conform to this world or its way of thinking. God's mind doesn't change. His word doesn't change. **PS. 119:89** Today our youth are being exposed to thinking that contradicts God's Word.

**3. A new diet. DAN. 1:5**

- A.** They lived by Jewish dietary laws. Now, they are pressured to compromise and defile themselves with food offered to idols.

**B. PS. 101:3** We're not to let anything cleave to us that compromises our walk with God. Food, drink, entertainment...

**4. New names. DAN. 1:6-7**

- A.** Daniel – God is my judge. Belteshazzar – Bel will protect. Hananiah – God is gracious. Shadrach – Aku's command. Mishael – who is what God is? Meshach – who is what Aku is? Azariah – the Lord helps. Abednego – servant of Nego.
- B.** The goal was to change their identity and way of thinking and get them to conform to Babylonian living.
- C. 1 JOHN 3:1-2** We are God's children, twice born, washed in the blood. People will attempt to get us to compromise.

### **THE PURPOSE OF THEIR HEARTS**

**1. A desire not to be defiled. DAN. 1:8-15**

- A.** The king could change their homes, diet, education and names, but not their hearts.
- B.** They refused to compromise and proved God could keep them healthier on peas, beans and water.
- C.** They were also told to compromise or die.
- D.** Putting God first enables Him to bless every aspect of our lives. **MT. 6:33**

### **PROMOTION**

**1. God's promotion. DAN. 1:17-20**

- A.** Given knowledge and understanding ten times greater.

**2. Promoted by the king. DAN. 2:47-49**

- A.** Promotion comes from God.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Jahaziel didn't just walk away from God over night. Little by little he was attacked in his thought life and finally gave up on his walk with God. **1 TIM. 4:1**

If we let our guard down and start compromising God's Word, ways and will, we too can end up not serving God as we should.

If the four Hebrew boys could stay faithful to God given their circumstances, how much more can we climb above compromise and continue our mountain climb with God?