

**October 19,20**

Facing the Furnace

Daniel 3

Message by Steve Fowler

Worship led by Jeff Brown

Music:

Be Thou My Vision	King Of Heaven	Come To The Altar
Death Arrested	Another In The Fire	

Sermon:

A religiously pluralistic society believes that the differences between the religions are not a matter of truth and falsehood but of different perceptions of the one truth; that to speak of religious beliefs as true or false is inadmissible. Religious belief is a private matter.

Be fully persuaded that Jesus is worth it.

Be prepared for the pressure those closest to you will place on you.

Expect suffering.

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering.

1 Peter 4:12-13

There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:6-9

Investigate today's cultural claims.

For those who have shared in the multi-faith, multicultural, multiracial world of today, it is preposterous to maintain that in all the infinite pluralities and relativity of human affairs there is an absolute against which everything else is to be measured.

How could you possibly know that no one religion can see the whole truth unless you yourself have the superior, comprehensive knowledge of spiritual reality you just claimed that none of the religions have?

Learn how to live as an exile.

Develop a healthy theology of suffering and power.

I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death

Philippians 3:10

One of the main ways we move from abstract knowledge about God to a personal encounter with him as a living reality is through the furnace of affliction.

Am I in anyway bowing to the idol?