

# Through the Fire (Pt. 2)

## Daniel 3



# Chinese Pastors (2018)

“For the sake of faith and conscience, for the spiritual benefits of the authorities in China and of society as a whole, and ultimately for the glory, holiness, and righteousness of God, we make the following declaration to the Chinese government and to all of society:

# Chinese Pastors (2018)

“1. Christian churches in China believe unconditionally that the Bible is the Word and Revelation of God. It is the source and final authority of all righteousness, ethics, and salvation. If the will of any political party, the laws of any government, or the commands of any man directly violate the teachings of the Bible, harming men’s souls and opposing the gospel proclaimed by the church, we are obligated to obey God rather than men, and we are obligated to teach all members of the church to do the same.



# Chinese Pastors (2018)

“2. Christian churches in China are eager and determined to walk the path of the cross of Christ and are more than willing to imitate the older generation of saints who suffered and were martyred for their faith. We are willing and obligated under any circumstance to face all government persecution, misunderstanding, and violence with peace, patience, and compassion.

# Chinese Pastors (2018)

"3. Christian churches in China are willing to obey authorities in China whom God has appointed and to respect the government's authority to govern society and human conduct. We believe and are obligated to teach all believers in the church that the authority of the government is from God and that as long as the government does not overstep the boundaries of secular power laid out in the Bible and does not interfere with or violate anything related to faith or the soul, Christians are obligated to respect the authorities, to pray fervently for their benefit, and to pray earnestly for Chinese society. For the sake of the gospel, we are willing to suffer all external losses brought about by unfair law enforcement. Out of a love for our fellow citizens, we are willing to give up all of our earthly rights.

# Chinese Pastors (2018)

“4. For this reason, we believe and are obligated to teach all believers that all true churches in China that belong to Christ must hold to the principle of the separation of church and state and must proclaim Christ as the sole head of the church. We declare that in matters of external conduct, churches are willing to accept lawful oversight by civil administration or other government departments as other social organizations do. But under no circumstances will we lead our churches to join a religious organization controlled by the government.... For the sake of the gospel, we are prepared to bear all losses—even the loss of our freedom and our lives.”

# Through the Fire

## Daniel 3

- I. The Relentless Reality of Government Persecution (1-15)
- II. The Believer's Response to Government Persecution (16-18)



# What Scripture teaches about government

1. Remember God has established all human government.
  - Dan. 4:25-26, 32, 34-35; Rom. 13:1
2. Understand the two primary roles God has given to government.
  - To reflect His own pattern of order and structure
    - Rom. 13:4 – a minister of God
  - To restrain human depravity
    - Rom. 13:3-4 – to punish evildoers



# What Scripture teaches about government

3. Pray for all who serve in government.

➤ 1 Tim. 2:1-2

4. Pay taxes.

➤ Rom. 13:6 - because of this you also pay taxes, for *rulers* are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

5. Seek and pray for the peace and prosperity of the country, even in persecution.

➤ Jer. 29:7 - 'Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.'

# What Scripture teaches about government

6. Submit to all of the government's biblically allowable commands.
  - 1 Pet. 2:13 - Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority.
7. Respect and honor those in authority.
  - Rom. 13:7 - Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.
  - 1 Pet. 2:17 - fear God, honor the king.

# Through the Fire

## Daniel 3

### II. The Believer's Response to Government Persecution (16-18)

- A. Be Completely Unintimidated by Human Authorities (16).
- B. Be Completely Confident in God's Power Regardless of the Danger (17).
- C. Be Completely Submissive to God's Will Regardless of His Choice (18a).
- D. Be Completely Committed to God Regardless



# When government persecution comes...

1. Remember that persecution is normal.
2. Remain respectful and law-abiding toward governing authorities.
3. Don't hesitate to respectfully insist the law be followed.
  - Jn. 18:22-23 - When [Jesus] had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?"
  - Acts 22:25 - When they stretched him out with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman and uncondemned?"

# When government persecution comes...

4. Trust God either to protect you from it or to strengthen and sustain you in it, and ultimately to deliver you out of it.
5. Trust the Spirit to give you the right words to speak when you stand before the authorities.
  - Luke 12:11-12 - "When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say;<sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."