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Oct 4, 2026



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

Your story matters.

**BIG LAKE
BUFFALO
SAUK RAPIDS**

Message Notes

- Icebreaker -

What are some hobbies, groups, or interests you've committed to, whether now or in the past, that others in your group may not know about?

1. Pastor Kyle asked, "What happens when there are competing allegiances in your life?" Read **Daniel 3:1-16**. What allegiances compete for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and how do they choose? How would you?
2. Pastor Kyle stated that this story in Daniel demonstrates that, "Our allegiance to God is always met with God's allegiance to us." How do you reconcile this with the fact that God doesn't always save His people from life's 'fiery furnaces'?
3. Pastor Kyle said, "Allegiance is a matter of worship." What 'good things' compete with God for your allegiance, measured by your time, spending, commitments, and dependence? Does that make you uncomfortable, and what can you do about it?
1. Pastor Kyle said that after identifying our idols, we must reject and replace them (**Colossians 3:1-5**). Which idols have you replaced over the years, and what helped you overcome them?

Questions from *Thriving in Babylon*, chapters 8-10

1. Read the first paragraph under "It's a Process" (pp 94-95). When you face challenges or suffering, what past experiences with God give you hope?
2. Osborne writes (pp 105-106), "When [God's] commands make no sense...we have a choice to make. Are we going to interpret...our current circumstances through the lens of faith or are we going to interpret our God through the lens of our current reality?" Choosing requires more than just believing in God, it also means believing He will speak to us and that we can hear and follow. Which is harder for you to believe under pressure and how do you discern where God is leading?
3. Read **Philippians 4:8**. Take a quick inventory of the time you spend on information, entertainment, technology, and people. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 = noble, right, pure, lovely; 1 = GIGO, "garbage in, garbage out"), rate what you've been feeding your mind. Why that number, and if you're unsatisfied, what will you do about it?



"I Pledge Allegiance"

Pastor Kyle Asmus | Oct 4, 2026

What happens when there are competing _____ in your life? Multiple things demanding your undivided _____?

Your ultimate allegiance is always _____.

Because the Bible says that if you're a follower of Jesus, you're an _____.

HOW DO WE EXIST WHEN WHERE WE ARE IS NOT OUR PLACE AND NOT OUR PEOPLE?

We don't belong here—through faith in Jesus, we belong to the _____ of God and to the people of God. Here...we're exiles.

Will we shrink back or will we _____?

Daniel 3:1-7, 13-26a

Jesus is _____ in the fire.

Our allegiance to God is always met with God's _____ to us.

Allegiance is a matter of _____.

What are you _____ your allegiance to?

Daniel 3 is trying to solidify our allegiance to God by attacking our idols on three fronts:

1. _____ the idols in your life.
 - An idol is anything more important to you than _____.
 - "[An idol] is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such a controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passion and energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought... An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, 'If I have that then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and _____.'" Tim Keller
 - The two most miserable people on this planet are those who are _____ idols and those who've caught their idol and realized it wasn't _____.

2. _____ the idols in your life.
 - _____ pledging our allegiance to them.
 - Care way more about _____ to Jesus than _____ in the world. (**Daniel 3:16b-18**)

3. _____ the idols in your life.
 - Paul says to replace the idol with _____. (**Colossians 3:1-2, 5**)

_____ your allegiance to _____.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!

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"I Pledge Allegiance"

Pastor Kyle Asmus | Oct 4, 2026

What happens when there are competing allegiances in your life? Multiple things demanding your undivided loyalty?

Your ultimate allegiance is always singular.

Because the Bible says that if you're a follower of Jesus, you're an exile.

HOW DO WE EXIST WHEN WHERE WE ARE IS NOT OUR PLACE AND NOT OUR PEOPLE?

We don't belong here—through faith in Jesus, we belong to the Kingdom of God and to the people of God. Here...we're exiles.

Will we shrink back or will we Stand Tall?

Daniel 3:1-7, 13-26a

Jesus is the 4th man in the fire.

Our allegiance to God is always met with God's allegiance to us.

Allegiance is a matter of worship.

What are you pledging your allegiance to?

Daniel 3 is trying to solidify our allegiance to God by attacking our idols on three fronts:

1. Identify the idols in your life.

- An idol is anything more important to you than God.
- "[An idol] is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such a controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passion and energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought... An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, "If I have that then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure." Tim Keller
- The two most miserable people on this planet are those who are chasing idols and those who've caught their idol and realized it wasn't enough.

2. Reject the idols in your life.

- Stop pledging our allegiance to them.
- Care way more about faithfulness to Jesus than participation in the world. (**Daniel 3:16b-18**)

3. Replace the idols in your life.

- Paul says to replace the idol with Christ. (**Colossians 3:1-2, 5**)

Pledge your allegiance to Jesus.

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