

Another Look at Belshazzar's Banquet

April 27, 2025

I. Introduction

- A. From interpretation to application
- B. Decision-Judgement time!
 - 1. *"You have been weighed on the scales and found deficient"* – Daniel 5:27
 - a. We have insufficient funds
 - 2. Pilate said, *"Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?"* – Matthew 27:22

II. Belshazzar

- A. His banquet – vs. 1-16
 - 1. *"Pride comes before the fall"* – Proverbs 16:18
 - 2. Arrogance and self-sufficiency go together – Daniel 5:20
 - a. His attitude is the opposite of the tax collector's. *"God be merciful to me, the sinner."* – Luke 18:13
 - 3. He mocked our God – vs. 1-4
 - a. Our God will not be mocked! – Galatians 6:7
- B. His failure to learn from his father Nebuchadnezzar – vs. 17-23
 - 1. Belshazzar had grace extended to him and failed to respond. – v. 22
 - 2. Sometimes you suffer judgement in time but not eternity. Achan may be an example of this. – Joshua 7:19-26
 - 3. It is clear that our God does not delight in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11) and desires all men to come to the knowledge of the truth (II Peter 3:9).
- C. His judgement and ours – vs. 24-31

- 1. Salvation is a work of God for man and not a work of man for God.
- 2. We do not have what it takes to tip the scale in our favor. Daniel 5:27 is true for all of us, *"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO NOT ONE"* – Romans 3:10
- 3. The truth is, *"All our righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight."* – Isaiah 64:6
- 4. *The truth is "if righteousness comes through the law (i.e. works) then Christ died needlessly."* – Galatians 2:21
- 5. When Jesus cried from the cross *"it is finished"* in John 19:30 (also see John 19:28, *"accomplished"*), He used a term that was stamped on a paid tax bill meaning "paid in full".
- 6. It has been well said that "the resurrection is the Father's amen of the work of the cross." – I Corinthians 15:16, 17
- 7. The Father was *"pleased"* with the work (His work on our behalf) of Christ on Calvary. – Isaiah 53:10-12
- 8. The more one depends on works for salvation the less assurance of salvation you will have. – I John 5:10-13
- 9. For those who wish to be judged by works for salvation, God will oblige! – Revelation 20:11-15
- 10. Let's make it clear! – Colossians 4:3, 4