

Text: Daniel 1:1-2 (page 737)

**Supporting Texts:** Revelation 17:5-6; Daniel 2:21; Romans 13:1; Habakkuk 1:1-13; Deuteronomy 28:47, 49-50, 52; Leviticus 26:40-45; Jeremiah 25:1-13; Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 29:4-14; 1 Peter 1:17-19, 2:11-25, 3:10-17; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; Matthew 5:13-16, 10:16; John 17:14-18; Acts 17:26-27

God is in control of who is in control.

As a Christian, there is no room for panic or despair.

God wants us to bloom where we are planted.

3 CORE CHARACTERISTICS::

**HOPE - HUMILITY - WISDOM**

Your Homework for the week:

What things cause you to question if God is in control? Read Psalm 73

How can you bloom where you have been planted?  
What do you need to change? Adjust? Strengthen? Remove?

If you are not in a small group, would you join one in 2017?

Text: Daniel 1

1. Some people think that our world is going down in flames. Do you think that's true? How are we to respond to our "decaying" world? Why do so many people act in despair, especially when events don't go their way?

2. In the first few verses of Daniel, we learn that Israel is in captivity again. Who put the Israelites back into captivity? How did Daniel respond?

3. How do you view God in all of this? Is He in control or is the world taking over?

4. How do you personally pick your battles, when to fight or when not to?

5. What does it look like to influence culture?  
How do you do this on a daily basis or how could you be an influence? In the world? In your community? In your work place? At home?

6. What does your modern day Babylon look like?  
How are you going to live and settle where God has placed you? (Jeremiah 29:5-7)

Further Reading: John 17:16-18, Acts 17:26-27, Matthew 5:13-16, Matthew 10:16 (see sermon notes for additional passages)

January 8, 2017



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