

TRINITY 20

THE COLLECT

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which thou commandest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. What two terms do we apply to God in the first phrase?
A. _____ & _____
2. From what do we beseech God to keep us?
A. From all things that may _____ us.
3. Human beings are composed of two parts, the body and soul. When we are ready in our whole being, what will we cheerfully do?
4. Through whom do we accomplish anything?

INTRODUCTION: **Read Daniel 1**

In the Collect today we pray that 1) God will protect us from all things that may hurt us, and 2) that we will be ready both in body and soul to 3) do that which God commandeth. In our Old Testament reading, we read of some boys who were thus protected, who prepared themselves, and fulfilled God's purpose. Who were they? Daniel and his three friends, young Jewish princes, of the family of King David. They were taken captive into Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, lived in his palace, and trained to be among his wise men.

I. THE DANGERS AGAINST WHICH THEY NEEDED PROTECTION.

1. a. The luxuries and indulgence of the king's court
b. Unfaithfulness to God
c. The burning fiery furnace
d. The den of lions

You know how God kept and protected them. We are going to study how they prepared themselves, and were ready, both in body and soul, for their work.

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II. THEY PREPARED THEIR BODIES by the rule of SELF-DENIAL.

1. There was provided for them all sorts of nice things to eat and drink. However, these boys had been taught by God's law that some kinds of food were not right for them to eat, and they were afraid lest they break that law. Some of the food had been offered to false gods, and by eating it others might think they were willing to share in the worship of these false gods., so they did not eat it.
2. What we learn: We must regulate even our eating and drinking by God's law, e.g. by temperance and by fasting at right times. Also, there may be things which we can eat and drink without any harm to ourselves, but we have to think whether our eating or drinking this or that may do harm to others.

III. THEY PREPARED THEIR MINDS by the rule of LEARNING and STUDY.

1. Secular Learning: They did their best (like Moses, acts 7:22) to master all the learning of the country in which they lived so that at the examination they came out at the top. Nebuchadnezzar was pleased, and gave them a higher position than the others, and that gave them more chance of doing good. Learn all you can, all will come in useful in many ways that you don't see now, and will help you to serve God better.
2. Sacred Learning: They did not forget their Scriptures. All other learning is of no use without the knowledge of God. The study of God's Holy Word will help us to make a good use of all other learning. It will guide our lives and guide our prayers.

IV. THEY PREPARED THEIR SOULS by the rule of PRAYER.

1. They prayed that God would show them the King's dream. This teaches us to:
 - a. bring our troubles and perplexities to God
 - b. to get others to join us in prayer
2. Daniel prayed in great danger—when it was forbidden to pray to God. We can learn to: never be ashamed of saying our prayers, and to pray regularly.
3. Daniel prayed according to God's will, from which we learn: to join confession and thanksgiving to our prayers (Dan 6:10) and to let our prayers be according to god's will so far as we know it.
4. If you look at 2 Timothy 2:21 and 2 Timothy 3:17, you will see how St. Paul teaches the same lessons.



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