



March 2/3, 2019

## Sermon Title: Nothing but the Ropes!

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

**Scripture:** Daniel 3:27-30 - Once the satraps, prefects, governors, and ministers of the king had gathered around, they saw that those men were physically unharmed by the fire. The hair of their heads was not singed, nor were their trousers damaged. Not even the smell of fire was to be found on them! Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "Praised be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent forth his angel and has rescued his servants who trusted in him, ignoring the edict of the king and giving up their bodies rather than serve or pay homage to any god other than their God! I hereby decree that any people, nation, or language group that blasphemes the god of Shadrach, Meshach, or Abednego will be dismembered and his home reduced to rubble! For there exists no other god who can deliver in this way." Then Nebuchadnezzar promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

1. Mature faith **trusts** in both God's power and His wisdom because it's **confident** of His covenant **love**.
2. You can't fully appreciate God's **love** until you understand it's an expression of God's **covenant**.
3. God's covenant love is a **constant** love because it's based on **who** God is - not **how** we perform. (Romans 8:38-39; 2 Timothy 2:13)
4. God's covenant love isn't **suspended** when we walk into a furnace; it's simply **expressed** in a different fashion. It destroys the things that **bind** us!
5. God's covenant love uses things intended for our **destruction** as instruments of our **deliverance**.
6. Satan knows he can't **separate** us from God's covenant love. So, he seeks to bind us with things that lead us to **doubt** that love.
7. Satan peddles the notion faith is essentially adherence to a set of hard-to-obey **rules**, rather than a **relationship** with a God of love!
8. A "rules" focus portrays God as a rigid deity who demands the **impossible**, rather than a loving God who does the **impossible** on our behalf.
9. Satan strives to convince us God **looks** and **acts** like him!
10. Once we embrace a negative concept of God's love, we imagine faithfulness will leave us **bound** and **burned** rather than **blessed**!
11. All God's people suffer from some form of bondage. And while much of God's liberation takes place **outside** the furnace, some of it will only occur **in** the furnace. And His love won't **deny** us that liberation!
12. God wants to enhance our testimony to those **bound** in sin by enhancing our freedom from the sins that **bind** us.

## Growth Group Questions

### Sermon Title: Nothing but the Ropes!

#### WARM-UPS

1. Name a book you're currently reading and how it's impacting you?
2. On a scale of 1-10 how close to God do you feel? Explain.



#### DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. Do you ever doubt God's love for you or feel as though you haven't "performed" well enough to earn it? If so, why do you feel that way, and what do you need to do to counteract that thinking?
3. Do you ever feel like your faith is more "rules" focused than it is "relationship" focused? If so, how did you come to believe that?
4. Are you able to identify some of the things that "bind" you and are hindering your relationship with God? If so, what are they? Are you willing to renounce them?

#### IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- Romans 8:38-39
- 2 Timothy 2:13
- 2 Corinthians 11:3

#### PRACTICE

- Spend some time with God asking Him to help you identify any satanic or cultural lies you have believed that have you bound in ropes. Write them down and then renounce and repent of each one in Jesus name.
- Spend some alone time with God pursuing Him, and asking Him to minister His unconditional "covenant" love to you. Journal what you feel or what you hear Him saying.