

## “Greeting Team”

### For Sunday, October 8th

Remember: Meet in the coat room @ **10:30 am** for brief prayer & then go “welcome” people! NOTE: Keep an eye on the auditorium for those who slipped past!

### Greeters this week:

#### Justin Taylor Sunday Night

- 1st— D. Mastbergen Thursday PM;
- 2nd— Justin Taylor Sunday Night;
- 3rd—Randy Ehlers Sunday Night;
- 4th—Curt Mastbergen Sunday Noon; Tackett Sunday Night

### Small Groups @ MBC

*Are Committed To Developing New Leaders Through Apprenticeship—  
Small Group Leaders Are Intentional About Reproducing Themselves*

## Announcements

1. Looking For A Good Podcast? Check out “Christianity and Liberalism” by Westminster Seminary
2. Next “Servant Equipped” Class? Begins Wednesday, October 11. Look for details

## Daniel: You Should Know Better

(Note: This continues a series of posts on Daniel’s life) One of the most hilarious scenes in the movie, *A Christmas Story*, occurs when one of the characters sticks their tongue on a frozen flagpole because they were “triple dog dared” to do so! The reason that scene is so funny is because we’ve all been there, haven’t we? Licking a frozen flagpole is like some weird right of passage in elementary school. And, it wouldn’t make any difference if they put signs up all over campus— “DON’T LICK FROZEN FLAGPOLES”— kids are going to do it! When they complain that the top layer of skin, on their tongue, has been ripped off, we tell them, “*You should have known better!*” They knew the consequences of licking a flagpole! They’d observed it in their foolish classmates! When they complain, for the next week, that it hurts to talk, that it hurts to eat, that it hurts to do anything with their tongue, we tell them, “*You should have known better!*” That’s almost exactly what Daniel says to the Babylonian king as we open chapter 5 of the book, of Scripture, that bears his name. Here we’re introduced to King Belshazzar. Almost 70 years have passed since Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael & Azzariah were exiled from Jerusalem to Babylon (Daniel chapter 1); and it’s been some 25 years since the end of chapter 4 when we see King Nebuchadnezzar become a worshipper of Yahweh. The historical record fills in some of the details— we know that it was Nebuchadnezzar’s son, Nabonidus, who followed him to the throne of Babylon; and it was his son, Belshazzar, who succeeded him & became the central figure here in the 5th chapter of Daniel’s story. We don’t know why; but, the Holy Spirit inspired Daniel to bypass the life of Nabonidus completely; and, all but the last day of Belshazzar’s life! Here’s what else we know— outside the massive walls of Babylon, the Medo-Persian army had surrounded the city. In his pride, King Belshazzar threw this huge drinking party for all his nobles to show them that there was no reason to fear the army outside the walls (ch. 5:1-4). Someone has said that “*Pride is the evil response of sinful men to the grace of God*”; and King Belshazzar’s response was evil! God’s Holy Spirit inspired the writer of Proverbs like this: “*These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him*”; guess what makes #1 on the list of things that the Lord hates? “*A proud look*” is at the TOP! God hates pride!



## The King Who Should Have Known Better.

He had heard about the grace that God had shown his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar; but, his pride led him into the deeper sins of idolatry & blasphemy. And, as Daniel rehashed the details, of his grandfather’s story, with him (vs. 18-21) he concluded: “*But you his successor, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this. Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven...*” (vs. 22-23) “*You knew all this,*” Daniel told him, “*You should have known better!*” And, we should know better! God’s patience can be exhausted! We make much of God’s mercy, grace & patience with us; and, we should because God is loving, merciful, gracious & patient with us! But, we dare not ignore the justice & judgment of God! We do so— like Belshazzar did— at our own peril!