

Norfolk

**RESCUE**

Mission

111 N. 9th Street, Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-6484 • (402) 371-2339 (fax)

[www.norfolkrescue.org](http://www.norfolkrescue.org)



*Helping the Hurting and the  
Homeless  
in the Name of Jesus Christ*

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**" (Romans 12:1-2)*

When Daniel and his fellow countrymen were captured by the Babylonians, King Nebuchadnezzar had crafted a well designed plan to erase all former Judaism from their lives. They were forcefully relocated and given a new diet. He had them learn a new language and to begin reading the literature of the Chaldeans. Likewise, their names were to be changed so that every aspect of their previous identities would be forgotten. **His goal was to utterly conform them into the image of Babylon.**

**Thankfully, Daniel was a man of conviction** and was not willing to sacrifice truth for the safety and ease of cooperation. He and his three companions chose to hold onto their Judaism, to the truth and to the memory of things past.

But for the majority of captives however, this plan was a complete success. Most of them readily complied and were even willing to bow down in worship to the golden image. Back home, they would have all claimed to stand upon the Law of God, **but under fear and pressure, most demonstrated that they really stood for nothing.**

This reminds me of a lyric from the musical, *Hamilton*.

Aaron Burr is giving some political advice to Hamilton, **"Don't let them know what you're against or what you're for."** Hamilton is taken aback at Burr's lack of conviction and later in the song replies, **"If you stand for nothing, Burr, what'll you fall for?"**

**That's a great question.**

Men lacking in conviction have no anchor. **They simply drift according to wind and tide.**

Paul teaches in his letter to the Ephesians that we must grow into Christian maturity, **"so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes."** (Ephesians 4:14)

***He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV***

The spiritual climate of America today is putting us to the test, and we need to be ready to meet the enemy in the field of battle.

The church needs men like Daniel to hold their ground. We need men like Joshua and Caleb who continued to trust God though they were outvoted. We need men like Paul who wipe off the dust and blood and go right on preaching. We need men like John MacArthur who honor the Word of God first and foremost regardless of the consequences.

This is what we teach the men and women on the discipleship program here at the Norfolk Rescue Mission. **Since 1996, we have been presenting the solid truth of God's Word and the firm foundation of the Gospel of Christ.**

**We did not shut down in 2020 and we're not going to shut up in 2021.** We will continue to teach the truth regardless of what is trending or what is considered socially acceptable. We realize that this will cost us some popularity points, but honestly... who's counting?

Scripture makes it clear, *"Do not be surprised, brothers, that **the world hates you.**"* (1 John 3:13)

**I'm good with being hated.** I don't look for the approval of men. I would much rather be approved by God, *"a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."* (2 Timothy 2:15b)

There are plenty of Aaron Burrs out there today; rooting for whichever team has the most points throughout the game. They stand for nothing and fall for anything. Will you be one who stands for truth in these dark days? **Will you stand with the Norfolk Rescue Mission as we dig in our heels and prepare to defend this hill?**

*Since then Your Majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer without horns and without teeth. Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason – I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other – my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. **Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise.** God help me. Amen. (Martin Luther, 1521)*

Standing Firm,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Will

***He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 2 Sam. 22:20 ESV***