Introduction:

A. Daniel:
   1. A familiar story to most - especially the lion’s den.
   2. A young man carried to Babylon.
      a. Grew in spirit, reputation, and influence for 70 years.
      b. Shows one can live godly in ungodly society.

B. Daniel was blessed by God because his commitment met God’s expectations:

Discussion:

I. Daniel’s Commitment to God Was Early. (v. 4).
   A. A young man who remembered his creator. (cf. Ecc. 12:1).
      1. Like Joseph before him. (Gen. 39).
      2. Like Timothy after him. (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15).
   B. A young man who stood by his godly convictions. (vv. 8-16)
      1. Did not leave God when he left home.
      2. Did not try to blend in with Babylonian life-style. (cf. Rom. 12:1,2)
   C. A young man with more worthwhile years to give to God.
      1. While young give energy.
      2. When old give wisdom.

II. Daniel’s Commitment to God Was Deep. (“in his heart”–v. 8)
   A. Reflected in all of his outward conduct. (cf. Prov. 4:23; 23:7).
      1. Had a deeper motive than merely to impress other young men.
      2. Had a deeper motive than merely to show defiance toward his captors.
   B. Reflected in his being unmoved by pomp and power of royal palace.
   C. Reflected in his accepting the risks of not conforming to Babylonian practices.
      1. Risked special training and treatment of select group.
      2. Risked life–life cheap to pagan kings.
      3. Risked less than would have if had compromised.
         a. Would have faded into crowd of historical unknowns.
         b. Would have never known “good, perfect and acceptable will of God,”

III. Daniel's Commitment to God Was Lasting. (v. 21).
   A. As an old man (about 90), he was still faithful and strong in the Lord.
      1. Years of struggle had not worn him down.
      2. Years of service had helped prepare for the lion’s den. (ch. 6).
         a. His reaction to Darius’ decree. (6:10) - Why not just wait out the 30 days?
         b. His deliverance by God. (6:18-23).
         c. His life after the lion’s den. (6:24-28).
   B. As an old man, he could look back over a life-time of spiritual growth.
      1. By the time he needed to refuse king’s food, he had character needed.
      2. By the time he needed to interpret Neb.’s dream had added wisdom needed. (2:14).
      3. By the time he needed to interpret the handwriting, he had gained reputation needed. (5:10-12).
      4. By the time he needed to face the lion’s den, he had developed courage needed.
      5. By the time he needed to help deliver the Jews had developed influence needed.
         a. Daniel prospered in the reign of Cyrus. (6:28)

Conclusion:

A. Remember our commitment to God needs to be: Early, Deep and Lasting.
B. By doing this Dan. had all one needs to succeed: Character, wisdom, reputation, courage and influence.
C. Why not begin your commitment by beginning to obey God today?