

Building on the Word of God¹

Nehemiah 8

PROPOSITION: Revival based on God's word is what the church, the city, and the country need!

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Nehemiah is a thrilling book on building.
2. A climax is given in 6:15, 16.
3. However, a need still existed.
 - a. The reading of God's word was absent.
 - b. The walls were built, but something needed to be built inside the people.
4. Nehemiah 8 stresses the importance of the word of God, telling how a revival based on the word of God began.

DISCUSSION: The elements of revival...

I. Hungering for the Word of God

- A. The people said to their religious leader, Ezra, "Preach to us from the word of God" (v. 1).
- B. Psalm 19:10 says the judgments of the Lord are sweeter than honey.
- C. Job "treasured the words of (God's) mouth more than my portion of food" (Job 23:12).
- D. Man lives by abiding in the Word (cf. Matt. 4:4).

II. Hearing the Word of God

- A. Not conscious of time, the people were attentive to the reading of God's word from morning until midday (vv. 2-4).
- B. They were in the square before the Water Gate for the purpose of hearing the Word.
- C. Listening to God's word is an important part of the worship assembly.

III. Honoring the Word of God

- A. The people said, "Amen, Amen" (v. 6).
- B. "They bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground" (v. 6).
- C. We should honor the Word of God with our lips and lives because it will stand forever (Isa. 40:8).
- D. We must realize the sacredness of the Bible and honor it (cf. Psa. 119:89-91).
- E. Men assisted Ezra to make sure the people understood what the Word was saying (vv. 7, 8).
- F. The preacher must be understood as he tries to help the hearers with God's word.

¹ Doug Parsons, *The Preacher's Periodical*, Vol. 6, No. 3, August 1985, pp. 25-27. Adapted by Andy Kizer.

IV. Heeding the Word of God

- A. When you hunger for the word of God, hear the word of God, and honor the word of God, it will transform you. You will humble yourself before it.
- B. Nehemiah 8:9-16 mention three changes that will occur when we heed God's teaching:
 - 1. It causes sadness and mourning.
 - a. The Jews grieved when they realized they were wrong (v. 9).
 - b. God's word can break a man's heart.
 - 2. It brings joy.
 - a. This part of the transformation is seen in vv. 10-12.
 - b. We rejoice in the Lord (Phil. 4:4; John 15:11).
 - 3. It brings obedience.
 - a. This is seen in vv. 13-18.
 - b. The Jews would keep the feast because God's word required it.

CONCLUSION:

- 1. Let us serve together. Let us share the gospel together.
- 2. The Jewish people found something they were not doing and decided they would do it, because God said to do it.
- 3. The word of God will change lives.