

## **Penitential Sorrow<sup>1</sup>**

Nehemiah 8:9-12

### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. The law makes for knowledge of sin (cf. Rom. 7:7).
2. That knowledge awakens sorrow (cf. Rom. 7:24).
3. When the people of Israel understood the words that were declared to them by Ezra the scribe, they were grieved (Neh. 8:9-12).

### **DISCUSSION: The grief of Israel was...**

#### **I. A Natural Sorrow.**

- A. The sorrow was because of guilt contracted.
  1. The Lawgiver is holy and just.
  2. He is righteous and benevolent.
  3. A failure to obey His word is rebellion and ingratitude.
- B. The sorrow was because of good forfeited.
  1. Physical, moral, spiritual, national, and eternal benefits were lost.
  2. The thought of what Israel could have been and would have been had it not been for sin would have been distressing.
- C. The sorrow was because of punishment incurred.
  1. Condemnation
  2. Remorse of conscience
  3. Separation from God
  4. Shame

#### **II. A Proper Sorrow.**

- A. Sorrow motivates confession (cf. Neh. 1:4-6).
- B. Godly sorrow produces repentance (Neh. 8:13-18; cf. 2 Cor. 7:10).
- C. As a result, there is eager acceptance of the truth (Neh. 8:14-16).
- D. A proper sorrow followed by obedience brings joy (Neh. 8:10; cf. Matt. 5:4).

### **CONCLUSION:**

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<sup>1</sup> *The Pulpit Commentary*, H.D.M. Spence, ed., *Nehemiah*, homiletics by G. Wood (New York, NY: Funk & Wagnalls Co., n.d.), p. 83. Adapted by Andy Kizer.