

Reading the Law

Nehemiah 8:5, 6

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the days of the New Testament, it was customary to read the law in public assemblies (cf. Luke 4:16).
2. It was not the custom of the priest to “preach.”
3. Ezra stood on a wooden platform surrounded by an immense congregation assembled for the purpose of hearing the word of God explained to them.
4. In the New Testament book of Acts, gospel preachers did that often.
5. From Nehemiah 8 we may learn how the word of God should be handled in such an assembly.

DISCUSSION:

I. In what manner should the word of God be told?

- A. Leading people to a better acquaintance with the Scriptures (Neh. 8:8)
 1. With a little explanation, the Bible is better understood (cf. Acts 8:30-35).
 2. Home Bible study may create questions that are answered in the assemblies.
- B. Bringing every part of the Bible into view
 1. Cf. Luke 24:27; Acts 20:20, 21.
 2. Doctrine *and* practice
 3. This teaching helps to eliminate error.
- C. Sharing truth with more authority
 1. The preacher gives a “thus saith the Lord...”
 2. The authority of God’s word demands obedience (cf. John 12:48).

II. In what manner should the word of God be heard?

- A. With reverential awe (cf. Neh. 8:5, 6; Psa. 119:161)
- B. With devout affections (cf. Neh. 8:9-11)
- C. With unreserved obedience (cf. Neh. 8:13-18)

CONCLUSION: