

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. When Ezra read from the book of the law, how was the Word received?
2. Why did people weep when they heard the words of the law?
3. In what ways did the people show their obedience to the Word?
4. How is obedience to the Word of God manifested in the lives of Christians today?
5. People have promised to obey God's word but have failed. Why?
6. What happens in the life of an individual, family and church when the Word is practiced?
7. What are the Christian's responsibilities regarding the Word of God?

SUMMARY:

As Ezra read from the book of the law to the people and explained the meaning so all could understand, the Word was received with gladness. All were eager to hear and to be taught and were receptive to the law of God. The people began to see themselves as God saw them and confessed their sins crying to God and glorifying His Holy Name. They were only satisfied when they could put into practice the Word which they had heard by walking into the Truth, separating themselves from the world, keeping the Sabbath and giving to God of that with which He had blessed them.

NOTES:

[SoF:8] We believe that a saving faith results in regeneration by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, without which there is no salvation.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

September 13, 2020

Third Quarter

OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD [SoF:8]

LESSON TEXT: *Nehemiah 8:1-18; 9:1-6; 10:28-39*

LESSON SETTING: Children of Israel meet in the street and ask to have the Book of the Law of God read.

TIME: Approximately 445 B.C.

I. READING THE WORD. Nehemiah 8:1-12

- A. Instruction (vs. 1-8) Colossians 3:16
- B. Teachableness (vs. 3) Matthew 13:16
- C. Receptiveness (vs. 3, 6, 12) Matthew 13:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

II. OBEYING THE WORD. Nehemiah 8:13-18; 9:1-6

- A. Obedience (vs. 16) Matthew 7:21; Acts 5:29
- B. Fasting (vs. 1) Matthew 6:16-18
- C. Confession of Sin (vs. 2-3) 1 John 1:9
- D. Glorifying God (vs. 5-6) Matthew 5:16; John 15:8

III. PRACTICING THE WORD. Nehemiah 10:28-39

- A. Walking in Truth (vs. 29) 1 John 1:7; 3 John 3
- B. Separation (vs. 30) Psalm 119:115; John 15:19
- C. Observe the Sabbath (vs. 31) Exodus 20:8, 31:14
- D. Giving of First-Fruits (vs. 32-39) Proverbs 3:9
1 Corinthians 16:2

GOLDEN TEXT: *THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE.*

Psalm 119:11

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Nehemiah 13:1-31

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: John 2:13-16; Romans 8:1-13;
Revelation 2:1-7

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: MEETING GOD'S STANDARD OF HOLINESS

INTRODUCTION:

Eliashib, a priest, had taken advantage of Nehemiah's absence, (he was in Babylon) and prepared a room for Tobiah an adversary. Eliashib's sin was especially grievous, because he used one of the rooms of the house of God. Nehemiah was heartsick when he saw what had been done. He ordered the room to be emptied of all things and thoroughly cleansed.

Our hearts are the temple of the living God, and it is possible that the devil can take advantage of us when we are not watchful and move into a room of the heart. How necessary that we remove all evil and ask God to thoroughly cleanse our hearts.

Satan is always alert to recognize an opening in a Christian's heart and enter in, regardless of how small the opening is. We cannot be watchful enough. We must pray and trust God to keep us in His power. He alone can help us to rid all self of sin and cleanse us through Christ's precious blood.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Sin will keep us from God's Word, but God's Word will keep us from sin.

GOLDEN TEXT: *IF ANY MAN DEFILE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, HIM SHALL GOD DESTROY; FOR THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY, WHICH TEMPLE YE ARE.*
1 Corinthians 3:17

How often the children of Israel disobeyed God when their spiritual leaders were absent. When Moses was on the mountain, they made a golden calf to worship. When Samuel was not with King Saul, he spared the King of Amalek and the best of the treasure and cattle, which God had commanded should be utterly destroyed. Now, during Nehemiah's journey to report to King Artaxerxes, one of the priests had installed an Ammonite in the courts of the temple. This man was one who had hindered the building of the wall. Worse still, his presence barred the Levites, the rightful priests from temple service.

The children of the New Covenant, whose temple of God is their heart, have the same danger. If we allow any evil in our hearts, it will hinder our rightful service to God. However, we have an added blessing in that our spiritual leader need never be absent. If you heed and obey the Holy Spirit, He will never leave you, and with His help you need never defile the temple of God, "which ye are."

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF September 14 – 20

M. Called Unto Holiness. Genesis 17:1-9
T. Instruction in Holy Living. Leviticus 19:1-19
W. *God's Holy House. Nehemiah 13:1-14
T. *God's Holy Day. Nehemiah 13:15-22
F. *God's Holy Covenant. Nehemiah 13:23-31
S. God's Holy Sacrifice. Hebrews 9:11-22
S. God's Holy City. Revelation 21:10-27

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