

Sermon Notes

From a Wordful-Worshipful to a Confessing-Covenanting-Consecrating People of God *Nehemiah 9.1-3, 38; 10.28-39; 11.1-2*

1. Recap

In Nehemiah Ch 8, we have seen how the people of God gathered around the Word to seek for its instructions, clarifications, expositions and applications. One of the applications were to worship the Lord by the book, worship the Lord with one another and to know that worship is all about Yeshua i.e. the Lord is Salvation.

2. Confessing to God (Nehemiah Ch 9)

- A. Another application was the confessing of their faith in God's attributes, covenant faithfulness and mercies, confession of our sins and repentance as seen in Ch 9.
- B. The prayer of confession ended with the people of God signing a covenant with the Lord, to be devoted wholly to Him, in respond to His covenant mercies and love
- C. We are exhorted to do likewise in Romans 12.1-2
- D. The world is always ready and seeking to squeeze the people of God into their mould.

3. Covenanting with God (Nehemiah Ch 10.28-39)

- A. The Creation ordinances of Marriage, Rest-Labour and Worship were matters of concern in their covenant with God.
- B. Convicted by the Word of God, they sought to correct the following problem areas with a covenant to bind them to the Lord.
 - i. Marriage: Unequally-yoked with unbelievers and faithless to the wife of their youth
 - ii. Rest & Labour: Failing to enter into the Lord's day of spiritual and physical rest
 - iii. Worship: Negligence of the House of God
- C. We are facing with subtler and fiercer attacks on the creation ordinances today both in and outside the church

4. **Consecrating to God (Nehemiah Ch 11.1-2)**

- A. What's in for the "residents in the Holy City"?
Insecurity, Potential loss of livelihood, Inconveniences, Public Scrutiny
- B. The willing unknowns (pioneers) in the service of the Lord

We may unconsciously question their sanity and sensitivity to family needs etc but let us never ever question or doubt their sacrificial obedience to the Lord.

- C. The people bless the willing unknowns in the service of the Lord.
 - i. After all the heated discussions/disagreements in working committees, constructive criticisms offered to someone serving the Lord etc let us ever be mindful and not to forget to 'bless' one another in the service of the Lord.
 - ii. Even if no one 'bless' you in the service of the Lord, remember to 'encourage yourself in the Lord' The joy of the Lord is our strength

5. **Blessedly ever after?**

- A. In Nehemiah Ch 13, we read of downgrading-sweeping changes to the people of God during the years of absence of Nehemiah from Judah. The people of God broke all the terms of the covenant signed in Nehemiah chapter 10.
- B. The terms of the broken covenant were arranged in a chiastic way i.e. A,B,C as recorded in Nehemiah 10 and C,B,A as recorded in Nehemiah 13 to catch the attention of the people of God as well as 21st century folks like us.
- C. Nehemiah was a type of Christ; to point the people of God of old to the coming Messiah. There would always be a remnant of God's people by His election of grace.
- D. If we are in Christ, we are His new creation. We are made conformable to His image and empower by His Spirit to live out the renewed creation ordinances by His grace.