

## Rebuilding of God's People – Part 2

### Introduction and Review

- After the wall was rebuilt, God convinced Nehemiah that it was time for the exiles to move back to Jerusalem – “put it...heart”.
- God's people were made to leave Jerusalem because of sin & its consequences and only a remnant was allowed to return.
- Even though God's people were punished & inactive in public ministry for years, they were still useful in His redemptive plan.
- Even though God's people were inactive in public ministry for years, they still remember God's calling & ministry – [priests, Levites, singers, gatekeepers, temple servants...](#)

### I. Preparation for the Word of God (8:1-2, 4-5)

#### A. Desire for the word of God (v. 1-2)

*God's people had been exiled, oppressed & deprived of formal worship for 140+ years – 3 generations. God often uses difficulties in life to create unity among believers & a desire to hear from Him – “gathered as one man” & bring the Book...” (v. 1). Leaders must be ready with the word of God when the Holy Spirit creates desire (v. 2a). People of all ages should be exposed to public worship (v. 2b).*

#### B. Reverence for the word of God (v. 4-5)

*The word of God must be clearly heard & the proclaimer must be clearly seen – “a wooden platform”. Other qualified men assist in the proclamation (v. 4b) – 42K+ people of all ages, no PA. The word of God is honored in their hearts & with their bodies (v. 5). God's people were ready to worship without a temple, pews, instrument, etc. – God, His word & Spirit are sufficient (Jn. 4:24).*

### II. Proclamation of the Word of God (8:3, 6-8)

#### A. Reading the word of God (v. 3)

*In proclaiming the word of God or preaching, the biblical text should be read – “he read from it” (1Tim. 4:13a). People must hear what God has said before interpretation & comments– an accurate translation, clear enunciation & pronunciation. People have the responsibility & obligation to be attentive when the Scripture is read (v. 3b).*

*Distractions must be minimized because God is speaking & every word is important (2Tim. 3:16; Mt. 4:4).*

#### B. Explaining the word of God (v. 6-8)

*God's people respond to truth with affirmation – “Amen” (v. 6a) = trustworthy or reliable. Biblical preaching should cause people to worship God, not the Bible or preacher (v. 6). The Scriptures must be correctly interpreted, explained & applied to life for people to understand God's word (v. 7-8; 1Tim. 4:13). Understanding is essential to bring conviction, repentance & obedience (Jn. 11:14Ac. 8:30-31; 1Co. 14:24-25).*

**ILL:** The little boy who misunderstood the preacher...

**APPL:** People should come to church seeking truth & understanding from the word of God. People should never leave church confused because the word of God was mishandled, communicated improperly or with error.

## CONCLUSION

The word of God is central for the life & livelihood any believer or group of believers. Because God expects obedience from His people, then His people must understand His word. In order for his word to be understood, it must be clearly communicated, explained & received. In order for the word to be received, people of God must treasure & desire it. What about you, do you long for & sincerely desire the word of God? Do you sacrifice & prepare yourself to hear & receive the word of God? Are you attentive & remove distractions; keep you mind from wandering? Can you say with the Psalmist, “Oh how I love your law!”; “My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly.”; “your law is my delight”; Psalm 19:7-10? We should all long for & love the word of God – it reveals the truth about our God, lives, past, future, how to please God, be fulfilled & content in life... Through the word we receive salvation, direction, exhortation, conviction, comfort, reproof, correction, teaching... It is living & active; Jesus said the word of God is spirit & life and it is essential for our soul.

And if you are not a Christian, the word of God reveals the only way of salvation. The word reveals your sin & your need for Jesus as your Savior... Will you trust Him & believe today...?

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