

Sermon Discussion Questions

November 13, 2016

Building the Church: Renewing the Covenant
Nehemiah 10-12 (selected verses)

KEY VERSES:

10:39 We will not neglect the house of our God.

12:31 Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks.

12:43 And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy . . . and the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

- 1) What does “ecclesiology” mean {ekklesia} and why is a sound ecclesiology vital for the Christian and important to God? [*Col. 1:16-18; Eph. 3:20-21; I Peter 1:9-10; Heb. 13:17*]
- 2) As God renewed His people through the ministries of Nehemiah and Ezra, what was their response in chapter 10? Is spiritual renewal an act of the will (I will try harder) or a response to God’s grace (look what God has done)? Discuss the statement: “The gospel is not about behavior modification, it is about identity transformation.”
- 3) Why is the statement in *10:39* so vital in understanding spiritual renewal? In what ways had Israel neglected God’s house? What is God’s house today? How might we neglect it? How might we remedy this neglect? What would motivate us to do so?
- 4) What is the significance of the statement in *12:31*? Is worship the root of spiritual renewal, the fruit of spiritual renewal, or both? What kind of people does God “seek out” (see the beautiful statement of Jesus in *John 4:23*).
- 5) What is the difference between God seeking us and we seeking God? Which comes first? [*John 15:16; Ephesians 1:1-14; I John 4:19*] Why is this order so important?
- 6) What is the significance of *12:43*? What is the essence of joy? What is “gospel joy”? In what way is joy both “circumstantial” and “relational”? Which one is unchangeable? Where is your joy?
- 7) *And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.* What is “doxological evangelism”? What happens when the power and joy of the gospel captures the heart of a Christian? What happens when the power and joy of the gospel captures the heart of a church? Are you praying to this end?