

The Joy of the Lord

Proclamation Bible Study; Week of Sunday, March 8, 2020; Steve Thiel

According to Nehemiah, reading and responding to the Word of God is critical to dwell in the city of God; because God's Word forms God's people. But Jesus is the ultimate Word of God. Therefore, our response to Him is what ultimately makes us fit for the eternal city of God.

I. Solidifying the People of God – Read Nehemiah 7:1-73

- A. How would you summarize where we are in Israel's history? What key dates, kings, and events can you remember? If you were to overview the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, how would you do so?
- B. What instructions does Nehemiah give to ensure the security of the city of God?
- C. As you think about Nehemiah's efforts to ensure that only the people of God dwell in the city of God, what connections and correspondence do you make to membership in a local church?

II. Prioritizing the Word of God – Read Nehemiah 8:1-12

- A. What are all the different ways in which the people of God demonstrate reverence and honor for the Word of God? How would you like to grow in your reverence and honor for the Scriptures?
- B. As you think about verse 5, do you think congregations should stand for the reading of God's Word? How can we show reverence for the Bible without worshipping a book, but the God of the book?
- C. Why do you think it's essential to have people help us understand the Bible? What are all the different negative outcomes that can come from a wrong understanding of the Scriptures?
- D. What impact should the Word of God have on the people of God (vv.9-12)? What do you think it means for the Law to be a tutor that leads us to Christ so that we can be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24)?
- E. What do you think it means for the joy of the Lord to be our strength? How would you like to grow in the joy of the Lord being your personal strength and motivation to live for the glory of God?

III. Remembering the Work of God – Read Nehemiah 8:13-18

- A. What do you think is the connection between studying the Word of God and obeying the Word of God?
- B. How did the people of God know they should celebrate the Feast of Booths? How does the Feast of Booths highlight the faithfulness of God to rescue His people out of slavery and deliver them safely to the Promise Land? How does this event point us to the salvation that is ours by faith in Christ?
- C. How do you think the Word of God forms the people of God? How does the Bible inform and instruct you on how to live for the glory of God? How would you like to grow in knowing the Word better?