

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What analogy can we find in Nehemiah's reforms?
2. In what ways should we honor God's house today?
3. Why was the absence of Israel's spiritual leaders an opportunity to disobey God? How could this be possible today?
4. How should we honor the Lord's Day of Worship?
5. How should we honor the Covenant that we have made with God?

SUMMARY:

As the book of the law was again read to the people of Israel, they became aware of the sin that had beset them and they proceeded to put that sin away from them. When the temple became defiled, Nehemiah removed the evil and had it cleansed by the Levites. Nehemiah took the only stand possible against the sin that prevailed, casting it out positively in no uncertain terms, realizing the terrible evil in the sight of the Holy God in Heaven.

What blessings would be ours if we could practice with the same determination, to live holy as He is Holy. If we desire to please God, we must resist all influences of evil. If we wish to be effective witnesses, we must live separated lives.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #13

September 24, 2006

Third Quarter

MEETING GOD'S STANDARD OF HOLINESS

LESSON TEXT: *Nehemiah 13:1-31*

LESSON SETTING: In the vicinity of the walled city of Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 445 B.C.

I. HONORING GOD'S HOUSE. Nehemiah 13:1-14

- A. Knowledge of Sin (vs. 1) John 15:22
- B. A Separated People (vs. 1-3) Proverbs 13:20; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:14
- C. Evil Associations (vs. 4-5) Psalm 1:1; 1 Corinthians 15:33
- D. Cleansing the Temple (vs. 6-14) Matthew 21:12; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Timothy 2:21

II. HONORING GOD'S DAY. Nehemiah 13:15-22

- A. Observing the Sabbath (vs. 15-18) Exodus 31:14; Matthew 12:12
- B. Cleansing Process (vs. 19-22) Acts 22:16; Ephesians 5:25-26; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7
- C. Seeking God's Mercy (vs. 22) Luke 18:13

III. HONORING GOD'S COVENANT. Nehemiah 13:23-31

- A. Sin (vs. 23-28) Romans 5:12; 6:23
- B. Covenant with God (vs. 25) Deuteronomy 23:21; Hebrews 12:24, 13:20
- C. Separated from Sin. John 8:11; Ephesians 4:22; Hebrews 12:1

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Malachi 3:7-18

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: 1 Samuel 15:18-23; John 15:10-12
2 John 6

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People Restored

TOPIC: BLESSING THROUGH OBEDIENCE

INTRODUCTION:

Paul wrote to the Colossians, "*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord . . .*" If we live or walk in the Spirit, we will live to the Lord and the result will be obedience to Him in all things. If we walk in the flesh, we become disobedient.

What an example of this were the Jews. The Old Testament tells us again and again how disobedient they were. From time to time they fell into sin and God had to punish them. In order to awaken them to their evil doings, He let affliction and tribulation befall them. When they repented of their evil doings, He again blessed them and removed the punishment. How patient He was with them, until their ultimate act, crucifying our Lord. Then they were scattered and left homeless.

We must take example and be watchful and prayerful that we are obedient, if we wish to receive His blessings. If disobedient, we can expect to be punished, even as the Jews were, and be denied His precious blessings.

CENTRAL TRUTH: If we desire to please God, we must resist all influences that could defile our lives.

GOLDEN TEXT: *IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS: THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND WILL HEAL THEIR LAND.*
2 Chronicles 7:14

How fitting to close this series of lessons from the Old Testament with a promise of God's blessings, when His people turn from their disobedience and seek Him! How often they had grieved Him when they turned from Him to idols! How often He had forgiven them when they again sought His face! Now their land was desolate and barren. They had not rendered to God those things which are God's. Yet, He promised to bless them abundantly, if only they would bring His share to the storehouse. (Malachi 3:10)

How much more does God desire fruit of the children of the new covenant! He has sent His Son, so that our hearts might be healed. Hearts that were barren and unfruitful should not abound with the fruit of the Spirit, which can be a blessing to all and an honor to God. "*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (2 Peter 1:8)

As God wished to heal Israel's land, he wishes to heal our hearts, if we will accept His conditions.

O Man, what virtue now adorns
Thy life, if thou look in thee?
Is thy heart's acre bearing thorns,
Or are good fruits within thee?
For by its fruits the field is known,
And who upon the field has sown,
The Lord or the destroyer? Z.H. 108:1

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sept. 25 – Oct. 1

M. Priority of Obedience. 1 Samuel 15:16-23
T. Love Dishonored. Malachi 1:1-14
W. Justice Vindicated. Malachi 2:1-10
T. *Blessings Offered. Malachi 3:7-18
F. A Prophet Promised. Malachi 4:1-6
S. Joy Through Obedience. John 15:5-14
S. Love - The Essence of Obedience. 2 John 1:13