

SERMON SERIES

NEHEMIAH:
Recommitting
God's People
to God's Glory



HOW GOD WANTS US TO REGARD HIS WORD

NEHEMIAH 8

Message Guide | May 23, 2021

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TODAY'S MESSAGE | MAY 23, 2021

How God Wants Us to Regard His Word

NEHEMIAH 8

God had gathered His covenant people who had the right hearts. They had sacrificed themselves more than once, and it showed. Now we'll see what people with the right hearts continue to do: they seek God in His Word. As the prophet Jeremiah said in the midst of a difficult calling, "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16).

How do we respond rightly to the Word of God?

1. God's Word should fill our Minds (vv. 1-8)

- What we see here is how God's people regard the Word so that it fills their minds:
 - ✓ God's people hunger for God and know that God will speak to them through His Word. (vv. 1-2)
 - ✓ God's people actively listen to the Word of God. (v. 3)
 - ✓ God's people revere the Word of God. (v. 5)
 - ✓ God's people worship God as the Word is read and explained. (v. 6)
- The role of God's servants is to bring out the Word, and give the meaning so that people understand it (vv. 4, 7, 8). This is a picture of how the community of faith, then and now, functions to seek God together.

2. God's Word should move our Hearts (vv. 9-12)

- Repentance: The Word moves our hearts to repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). Repentance isn't just an occasional act for a believer, but an entire lifestyle of humility and dependence on the Lord. As God reminds us in Isaiah 57:15: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite".



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- Rejoicing: True repentance always leads to rejoicing. There is such a thing as dwelling too much on our sins, and it can make our walk with God miserable (Hebrews 12:11-13). After repentance, the end result should always be joy, which is part of the Fruit of the Spirit. Remember this when you feel weakest: the joy of the Lord is your strength! (Proverbs 15.15)

3. God's Word should change our Lives (vv. 13-18)

- If verses 1-12 pictured what we see in our day as the Sunday Worship Service, vv. 13-18 pictures what we call today our "Group Bible Study" (e.g., our GCF Growth Groups).
- The effect of continued, intense study of the Word is so beautiful and beneficial: they faithfully applied the Word of God. It led to their realizing how far they had drifted from following God without even knowing it, and now they were making a full return. And the way it blessed them should be the way it blesses us: "there was very great rejoicing".

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Bible should fill our minds and move our hearts, until it changes our lives. One of the greatest blessings from the Word is that, together with prayer, it is the key to a lifetime of constant renewal – where sorrow over sin is always followed by rejoicing over grace.

May this be your life as you seek God in His Word!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Our minds get filled with what we desire, like what happened to God's people in Nehemiah 8:1-2. Brainstorm within the group about some suggested ways that a believer can develop a greater desire for God's Word.
2. When the Word is really focused on, an emotional response always follows. How can both repentance and rejoicing be found together in response to the same portion of God's Word?
3. Pray together and ask God to help each and everyone in the family/group become doers of God's Word, and not hearers only.

Download the study guide: bit.ly/NehemiahStudyGuides



WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

If you are led to give, you may do so through the following means:

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PAYMAYA



Send a copy of your transaction document to **finance@gcf.org.ph** so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

GCF BAYANIHAN FOOD STALLS

The GCF Mercy Ministry continues to accept donations, here's how:

For In-Kind Donations: drop off at the GCF Lobby from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

For Cash Donations: give via the GCF bank accounts (gcf.org.ph/give).

Email your deposit slip to finance@gcf.org.ph with the subject "*For Bayanihan Food Stall*".

For questions, contact the Mercy Ministry at 0917 532 7672 or mercy@gcf.org.ph

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS

You may also give to support the church family's COVID relief efforts.

Just indicate "**For COVID-19 Fund**" when you email your transaction document.



CHURCH UPDATES



TELECONSULTATION SERVICE IS NOW OPEN

For appointments or questions, please contact:

gcfocstef@gmail.com (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) • gcfocluan@gmail.com (1:00 – 4:00 PM)

REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS DEVOTIONALS

Mondays and Fridays | 8:00 p.m. | Livestream on GCF Facebook and YouTube

LIVEstream (Youth LIVE Worship)

Saturdays | 5:00 p.m. | on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays | 1:00 p.m. | on Facebook at @GCFKidsLIFE

THE GCF FAMILY'S HOUR OF PRAYER

Thursdays | 8:00 p.m. | 9 p.m. | via Zoom

HEAVEN, HELL, AND LIFE AFTER DEATH (7-WEEK ONLINE BIBLE STUDY)

Sundays | 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. | via Zoom

Pre-registration required:

(Precept) Ms Goldie/Jen: 0917-7732378 • (GCF) Marj: 0917-7791549

Register here: <https://forms.gle/AbFBoqYT9Wc1y5FX7>

YA TALKS: TOUGH TOPICS IMPRECATORY PRAYER

May 26, 2021 | 8:00 p.m. | LIVE on GCF Facebook and YouTube page

LOOK UP AND MOVE OUT

Discover how you can support CHURCH PLANTING through the new online City Bible Study Groups. Let us plant churches with a high view of God and a high view of God's word!

Visit bit.ly/GCFChurchPlanting to find out more!

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Message us your prayer requests at:

Facebook: Greenhills Christian Fellowship | E-mail: pray@gcf.org.ph

GROW IN A GROWTH GROUP

PHILIPPIANS GROWTH GROUP | MIXED (AGE 30 TO 65)

Tuesday | 8:00 p.m. | via FB Messenger Rooms | with Gary Lee

ONLINE VISITOR'S CENTER

Are you joining us for the first time? We would love to get to know you more!

Visit bit.ly/GCFwelcome



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

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Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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