

INFLUENCE^R

a study of Nehemiah



August 11, 2024
11:00 AM Worship

NEHEMIAH: MEANT FOR MORE

Greeting		Ms. Kate Pearson
Hymn 74		ST. ANNE
<i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>		
Morning Prayer		Rev. Susie Reeder
Responsive Reading 694		
<i>Confession and Repentance</i>		Rev. Reeder
Hymn 244		IVERSON
<i>Spirit of the Living God</i>		
Hymn 531		ADA
<i>Redeemed</i>		
Prayer of Commitment		Mrs. Eileen Hatch
Offertory Feature	Sanctuary Choir	
<i>What a Friend We Have in Jesus!</i>	arr. McDonald	
Message	<i>Influence^R Meant for More</i>	Pastor Blake Bengé
Hymn 329		MOODY
<i>Grace Greater than Our Sin</i>		
Recognition of Decisions		Pastor Bengé
Next Steps & Spoken Benediction		Rev. Deed Murphy
Parting Praise 253		OLD 100TH
<i>Doxology</i>		
Postlude		Donna Davenport
<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>		LOBE DEN HERREN/Manz

INVITATION TO RESPOND

- Comment on Facebook
- Share this worship service on your social media
- Email a decision or prayer request to info@snydermbc.com
- As comfort and common sense allows, reach out to your next a neighbor. Share and show Christ.

Are you visiting with us today? Just scan the QR code for more info. We'd love to get to know you!



TAKE IT WITH YOU

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Religion. Some of us see it as a bad word. It is often defined as empty rituals, and contrasted with a genuine relationship with God. But there is another definition of religion, a more traditional one, which sees it as a good thing. After all, Paul can commend the people of Athens for being "very religious" and James can say that "true religion" is to visit widows and orphans.

In this traditional understanding, religion is a virtue. The word virtue is commonly used by us to simply mean good, but it is deeper than that. Virtues are habits; they are things we practice that form us. So religion is a habit, but a habit of what? Religion is a habit of justice toward God. Justice is another traditional virtue, defined as rendering to others what they are due, or treating others as they ought to be treated. Taking all of this together, we see that religion is our habitual practice of treating God as we ought to treat Him.

Throughout the book of Nehemiah, the destroyed city of Jerusalem mirrors the disorder and chaos of the spiritual state of Israel. The cycle of sin and rebellion, laid out in the narration in chapter 9, comes

from the disordered desires of the Israelites, preferring the things of this world to God. This cycle of sin is the same in our own souls. For what is sin but our will acting on disordered desires, desires for things other than God and the good things He created? Conversely, what is true religion, whether practiced by the nation of Israel or us as individuals? It is the ordering of our desires, our wills and our actions toward God, disposing us to treat Him as we ought. This involves worshiping God and avoiding sin, of course, but it also involves, and James says, visiting orphans and widows in their affliction. Inasmuch as you do something to the least among us, you did it to Him.

Saint Augustine, in a work dealing with all false religions, spoke of true religion thus: *"When we lift our hearts up to Him, our heart is his altar. We offer to Him, on the altar of our heart, the sacrifice of humility and praise, and the flame on the altar is the burning fire of charity."*

~ Matthew Miller

INFLUENCER | MEANT FOR MORE

In this series we are considering the life of Nehemiah. While he is not a Professional Influencer in the modern sense, he is an InfluenceR with social and spiritual impact. His life reveals traits of a Good Influencer we should emulate as an Ambassador of Jesus (II Corinthians 5:20).

To this point in our search we have seen a focus on a major construction project: The restoration of the city of Jerusalem in hopes that the people of Israel would have protection and the opportunity for prosperity. He knew that the people of Israel were meant for more than living in ruin and rubble.

However, it would take more than a construction project to restore them and give them a future. They would need to recover things lost to memory, that had to do with Character. It was time to focus on their substance not merely the structure surrounding them.

Today we find the InfluenceR trait of *Redemptive Recall* as we realize that the greatest threat to an InfluenceR may not be the enemy "outside the wall", but forgetting redemption.

Redemptive Recall

remembering redemption so
ruin can be avoided in the future

"I've found that your character, not your competency,
determines your legacy. Good or bad."

- Cary Nieuwhof

From Forgetting to _____
From Construction to _____
From Outside to _____

Nehemiah 9

Weird Worship? (9:1)

Coming Clean (9:2)

Restoring Redemption's Memory (9:6-10)

Trading Milk & Honey for Ruin and Rubble (9:15-17a)

There is a Redeemer (9:17b)

Cycle...

The Cycle | Not to be Forgotten (9:26-28)

The Ripples of Rebellion and The Redeemer (9:32-37)

The Result of Redemptive Recall (9:38)

Thinking Exercise

1. Is worship a priority or a pasttime for me?
2. What defines me? My Redeemer or that from which He redeemed me?

Prayer Exercise

A Prayer of Redemptive Recall

Bless you God, you are my redeemer, you redeem my life
from the pit, you crown me with steadfast love and mercy,
you satisfy me with good.

May I remember to do your commandments.
based on Psalm 103:2-5, 18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS IN JULY COLLECTION - LAST DAY: We are collecting items for DSS Foster Care Kids and Margaret Willis School. A list of items can be found in *The Bell*. Please bring items to the collection box located in the Gathering Hall. Items are needed by today, August 11.

NEW MINISTER OF STUDENTS AND CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: Welcome to Deed Murphy, our new Minister of Students, Kaidyn Murphy, our new Children's Director, and their beautiful son, Cross! Join us for an informal "Meet & Greet" with Deed and Kaidyn on Wednesday, September 4, for our first Family Night Dinner of the season!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating Committee is still looking for College Age Sunday School Leader, Youth Sunday School Teacher, Launchpad Music helpers, and Men's Ministry. If you are interested, contact Toni Clark at teclark1231@gmail.com.

YOUTH CHOIR RESUMES AUGUST 18, AT 4:45PM, FOR GRADES 6 - 12: TOGETHER AS ONE, the 2024 - 2025 Youth Choir and Student Ministry theme will bring a focus on "oneness" not "sameness". I can hardly wait for it to begin. We will also have a midbus to take youth to the Mt. Sinai Back to School Bash after the first youth Choir rehearsal ends. See Ya Soon! - Richard Suggs

MT. SINAI HOMES BACK TO SCHOOL BASH, AUGUST 18, 5 - 7PM: We will be hosting a cookout for the neighborhood as well as having some bouncy houses for the children. We will give out 100 backpacks filled with supplies for the children as these children are part of Margaret Willis School. We need volunteers to help with the cookout, supervising the bouncy houses and giving out the school supplies. All are welcome! Please contact Susie Reeder by email (susier@snydermbc.com) or by calling the Church Office (919) 484-3191 to volunteer.

SNYDER BACK 2 SCHOOL BASH: Join us at 8am on August 24 as we celebrate the new school year. For grades 6-12, sign up at snyderstudents.com/events.

READY TO LAUNCH: Come join us for a Launchpad Kickoff Party for the whole family on Sunday, August 25, from 4:30 - 6pm on Snyder's Front Lawn.

DRIVERS NEEDED: We are in need of drivers for our special events! If you have your CDL, or if you are interested in getting your CDL please call the church office (910) 484-3191 or email Lyn Rice (virlynr@snydermbc.com).

THE MOMCO: Motherhood is complicated. Mom friends help. Register today for the 2024 - 2025 season! There are three groups that resume in the fall. To register and for more information go to snydermbc.com/women.

SNYDER PARENTING WEEKEND: Meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, September 14, 9am - 11:30am, with guest speakers Chris Sasser and Abbey Wedgeworth. Cost is \$5 per person. Childcare is \$10 per family, by reservation only. For registration and more information, please visit <https://snydermbc.com/parentingconference>.

HOW TO GIVE TO SNYDER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Cash or Check

- by mail or dropping off to Finance Office
- Automated Bank Draft on the 5th or 20th of the month - contact Finance Office to acquire forms for draft set up

Online (computer, mobile phone, tablet)

- Go to www.snydermbc.com; select "Giving & Tithing | Online" from the menu; enter the information (if you are already in our database, you can login; otherwise you can continue as guest)
- or*
- download the "Church Life" app to your mobile phone (you must already have a username and password for AccessACS - see below - in order to use this app). There is a link on the app to give, and it will take you to AccessACS; follow the instructions

WE EXIST TO LEAD PEOPLE TO DISCOVER GOD, DEVELOP FAITH AND DISPLAY CHRIST-LIKE LOVE IN OUR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS.

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