

## HANDOUT PART FIVE: Consecration and Celebration Nehemiah 10:1-12:47

**KEY:** *God Wants US to WORK OUT What HE Has Worked IN US!*

**KEY:** God Desire's We Move Beyond Being Converted To Being "CONSECRATED"!

**TEXT Nehemiah 9** The Israelites Confess Their Sins

- VS-1: Israel Confesses Their Sins
- VS-33 They Confess God Remained Righteous and Acted Faithfully
- VS 38 They Made and Signed a Binding Agreement

**VS. 38 'Affixing Their Seals to It'** After their prayer of confession, they write out on paper the steps they are going to take and how they're going to live in response. *And they sign their names to it.*

**THOT:** It's one thing to Cry out in Repentance at the Altar and Feel deep Regrets and Cry Tears, But it's Another Thing to Get Up and Change...which is TRUE Repentance.

### 3 KEY ASPECTS OF THEIR CONSECRATION:

**ONE: The Application of the WORD.** Nehemiah Chapter 10 They've heard the Scripture and Were Convicted, and Now Choose to Obey It.

- James 1:22 *Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only deceiving your own selves.*
- In Chapter 9: They Consecrated Themselves to the Lord...*They Applied the Word to their Lives...*
- 10:30 they even Applied it to their Marriages, "We Are NOT Going to be Unequally Yoked Together."

God Knew an Unequal Yoked Marriage Would Lead to Constant Conflict. Jews Couldn't Eat Pork the Gentiles could. They would Fight Over Money...the Jews gave 3 tithes: a Temple tax, the First-Fruit's, and what we call the Tithe today. [EQUAL TO 28%] Constant Conflict would Lead to Occasional Compromise.

- The believer would get tired of fighting and would Eventually Give in and Compromise.
- Then comes Complete Conformity, where the Believer Abandons their Faith.
- These are the same reasons your New Testament says NOT to Marry an Unbeliever.

**READ 2 Corinthians 6:14-15** Do Not Be Yoked Together With Unbelievers. It's Much Easier to Make Hot Water Cold than Cold Water Hot...It's Much Easier to Pull Someone Down than to Pull Someone Up!

They Applied the Word to Sabbath Keeping...Vs 31 *We're Going to Keep God's Day Holy...*And they signed their names to it! In Addition...They Applied the Word to their Giving.

Every Great Revival Renews Interest in the House of God, and in Giving to it. When someone says they have had Revival, but it doesn't bring them back to church something is wrong.

- **KEY...If Revival Hasn't Reached Your Wallet it Hasn't Reached Your Heart.**
- Jesus said it. [where your treasure is...] the Application of the Word...

**TWO: The Occupation of the City...** Nehemiah Chapter 11 We Must let Our Light Shine Where God Puts Us. *Once the walls were built Nehemiah had to deal with another problem. There weren't enough Jews living inside the walls. Many lived in villages just outside the city.* **READ CHAPTER 11:1-2:**

- Nehemiah needed more Jews to Protect the city, and also To Be Witnesses to the Many Gentiles Around the Area. He asked for volunteers, and drafted more as needed. One in ten needed to come to town, sell their house and move! Imagine the church split we'd have today!

**"Great Lesson" When You and I are willing to take the Tough Job in the Church, NOT Just An Easy One...God Blesses in a Special Way!** God Wants Us to Make the Choice to Occupy!

Webster says To Occupy Means... To Take or Hold Possession...To Stand Firm...To Make a Difference!!! *Consecration Means Making Tough Changes, and Doing the Things God Would Have Us Do!*

**God Is Calling Us Today to Stand Firm on Gods Word and Point People to Jesus Christ...That Requires that they SEE Something Different in US!**

**THREE: Now, the Celebration! Nehemiah Chapter 12**

In Nehemiah 12: 27-43 We See the Dedication of the Wall of Jerusalem.

**In Vs 27...A Party's Gettin' Started!** *At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to Celebrate the Dedication with Songs of Thanksgiving with the Music of Cymbals, Harps and Lyres.*

**There is a Great Emphasis on Joyful Praise in the Remainder of Chapter 12.**

- Singing is Mentioned 8 times...Thanksgiving 6 times...Rejoicing 7 times...Musical Instruments 3 times. They Organized 2 Separate Choirs, one led by Ezra and the other by Nehemiah.
- They Marched Around the Wall, 1 went Clockwise and the 2nd Counter-clockwise. They Met in the Middle...***It Was Not Quiet or Solemn. It Was a Celebration!***

And Church Should Be the Very Same! When Sharing Christ with a man named Tracy, he said If that is True...***EVERY SUNDAY Should Be a CELEBATION!***

**Point...**If YOU are NOT Celebrating Christ in Your Life...You Need to Ask Yourself... WHY?

- Ps 100:4 says, *“Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving and His Courts with Praise; Give Thanks to Him and Praise His Name.”*
- ***I Question if We Can Truly Be in the Presence of the Lord God Almighty Without a Heart of Thankfulness and Praise!***

When You get Right with God...Not Just about a Sin...BUT...Being Thankful For All that God is Doing for YOU...Then...You Cannot help but Celebrate and Rejoice.

One of the Greatest Ways to Have a Testimony for Christ is Just to Live a Life of Thanksgiving and Praise in ALL Things...

**Today's Take-Away's**

**First...**As in our Story...We Need to Clean the Cobwebs of Sinful Behavior...We Need to Kill The Spider!

***Next, We are Not to Just Hear or Read God's Word...We Are to Turn Gods Word into Lives of Action...So that The World Will See Christ and Respond!***

**Finally...**We Are to Celebrate Gods Goodness in Both The Trials We Face as Well as the Victories We Experience!

As We Follow these Three Simple Take-Aways...God Will Use Our Lives To Draw Many to Jesus Christ!

**POINT: Confession Leads To Consecration and Consecration Leads To Celebration!**