

Nehemiah & Philippians: Journey to JOY

Women of the Word: 2019-2020

Lesson 24: The JOY of Holiness

Nehemiah 13.15-30

Key Verse: Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of Your steadfast love.~Nehemiah 13.22

13.15 In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food. **16** Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself!

17 Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day? **18** Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

19 As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day.

20 Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice. **21** But I warned them and said to them, "Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath. **22** Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of Your steadfast love.

23 In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. **24** And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but only the language of each people.

25 And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take an oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves. **26** Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. **27** Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?"

28 And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me. **29** Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

30 Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work; **31** and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Notes/Observations about this passage:

DEITY: Wrathful~ AW Pink said: "The wrath of God is His eternal hatred against all unrighteousness. It is His displeasure and

Highlight verses in this passage of Nehemiah that identify God

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<p>indignation of divine fairness against evil. It is the holiness of God stirred into activity against sin.” (Romans 2.1-11; 5.12-21)</p> <p>God has made no attempt to conceal the facts concerning His wrath (Ezekiel 5.13; Romans 3.9-26; Revelation 6.15-17). He is not ashamed to make it known that vengeance and fury belong unto Him (2 Chronicles 36.15-16; Ezekiel 20.6-22; Romans 5.9-11; Revelation 19.15-16). A concordance study of the Bible will show that there are more references in Scripture to the anger, fury, and wrath of God than there are to His love and tenderness.</p> <p>Because God is holy, He hates all sin (1 John 1.8-10); and because He hates all sin, His anger burns against the sinner (Genesis 3.1-24; John 3.36; Ephesians 2.1-10; Titus 1.16). God is angry against sin because it is rebellion against His authority and acts against His sacred sovereignty (Isaiah 13.9-13; Jeremiah 17.9-10).</p>	<p>as “Wrathful”.</p> <p>Please move to this week's doctrine. Question 7 will ask you to use the scripture verses located in this deity to guide your answer.</p>
<p>DOCTRINE: Judgment~ “There is a day of judgment coming when every man and woman and boy and girl will have to stand before a righteous God to give an account for one thing—what did you do with Jesus Christ?”~Billy Graham.</p> <p>There are two kinds of judgment in the Bible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Punitive judgment against unbelievers for their many sins (Romans 1.18, 28; 2.1-11; 8.1; Hebrews 9.27; Acts 17.31). Scripture describes punitive judgments as dreadful to warn sinners to flee to Jesus Christ. Punitive judgments will be endured in a conscious condition and forever (Luke 16.19-31; 2 Thessalonians 1.5-10; Revelation 20.15).2. Evaluative judgment for believers, depending how well they have served Christ as His disciples in this life (Romans 2.12-16, 14.10; 2 Corinthians 5.10). These evaluative judgments are often referred to as rewards (2 Timothy 4.8) and encourage believers to live in faithful obedience to God and do the good works He has ordained for their lives (1 Corinthians 3.14; 15.58; 2 Thessalonians 1.11-12). <p>This doctrine is offensive to many people, yet God's judgment establishes true value or worth. Judgment proves that who we are and what we do matters.</p>	<p>Highlight verses in this passage of Nehemiah that identify the teaching of “Judgment”.</p> <p>Describe the role of Jesus Christ in the two kinds of judgment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Punitive2. Evaluative

Diamonds (choose one or two to share with your group):

1. From verses 15-22, of what does Nehemiah state the people are guilty (V 17-18)?

a. From Nehemiah 1.2-3, what has been the result of their disobedience?

b. What resource does Nehemiah use to begin restoring the Sabbath (V 19)? How does this build into God's people obeying God's command (V 22)?

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2. From verses 23-27, of what does Nehemiah state the people are guilty (v 27)
 - a. What is one direct result of the people's disobedience (V 24)? Why do you think Nehemiah documented this specific result? What consequence do you think it had to God's people at that time?

 - b. How does the account of King Solomon from 1 Kings 11.1-8 spur Nehemiah's violent reaction (V 25)?

3. Connect Malachi 2.1-9 with Nehemiah's reaction to the priest in verses 28-29.

4. Contrast this breakdown of Nehemiah's reform work (V 30-31) with the identified verses from Paul's letter. In each contrast, ask yourself, "How does this point to Jesus? and "What difference does Jesus make?"
 - a. Philippians 3.1-21 with "Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign,..."

 - b. Philippians 2.1-16 with "...and I established the duties...each in [her] work;"

 - c. Philippians 4.10-20 with "and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times,"

 - d. Philippians 1.9-11, 20-21 with "...and for the firstfruits."

5. Compare the final verse of Paul's letter (Philippians 4.23 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.") with the last recorded statement from Nehemiah (V 31 "Remember me, O my God, for good.):
 - a. To whom do both men point their readers? _____
 - i. Using the "[Nehemiah Philippians Study Outline](http://cepc.org/ministries/womens-ministry/)" (attached to Lesson email or <http://cepc.org/ministries/womens-ministry/> under Women of the Word, "Full Outline"):
 1. Which deity(ies) does this bring to your mind?

 2. Which doctrine(s) does this bring to your mind?

6. Nehemiah is a historical narrative and Philippians is a letter. Consider the reason the tone of their documents are different. For instance, consider their different approach and speech to God's people. Use the verses found in this week's deity, "Wrathful", to guide your thoughts and answer. It may help to first read through all the verses in "Wrathful" and then prayerfully mediate on them and consider your answer.

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Practicing Remembrance: In Hebrew, the word for ‘remembrance’ is the verb “zakar”. It is an action word. As we are intentional about remembering God, and His work in us, we are called to take action (1 Chronicles 16.8-12; Isaiah 46.9; Luke 22.10-20). What action(s) will you take, or have you taken, as you remember God? Write an eye-opening or mind-blowing truth about God from this lesson, or lecture. What action(s) will you take, or have you taken in light of this truth about God?

Praying for God’s work in our lives: Write a prayer, and praise, using one Diamond God revealed to you this week, or during lecture. Share one sentence in your prayer that your small group can pray for you as you apply this Diamond. (*Please see your small group leader regarding personal prayer request.*)

Lecture Outline:

AIM: God’s people are called to be a sacred people.

- I. Sacred Sabbath (Nehemiah 13.15-22) **T1:** Sacred living requires an awareness of God’s presence and of our accountability to Him.
 - a. How aware are you of God’s presence?
 - b. In what ways has your knowledge of Him and His Word made you more accountable to God?
- II. Sacred Separation (Nehemiah 13.23-31) **T2:** Sacred living requires us to live separated from the world and for God.
 - a. What worldly ways are creeping into your life?
 - b. Does your life evidence that you are a traitor within the church or a beloved child of God living for His glory?
 - c. What needs to change for you to live a sacred life separated from the world and for God?
 - d. Do you look more like the culture or more like Christ?

Thank you for your service through Mission of the Month. We are looking forward to the service God has in store for us in 2020-2021!

The following questions are related to your study and application of lessons 14-24:

1. Consider that both Nehemiah and Paul lived to God’s Glory in the midst of God’s people, in the culture of the world, as well as in challenging circumstances. Review your notes and applications from Lessons 14-24. Reflect on the truth that we are called to do the same. Using your notes and at least one application, write 3 sentences that summarize your journey of living to God’s Glory:

2. Review the deity and doctrine from Lessons 14-24:
 - a. Which have been most challenging for you to understand?

 - b. Which have been most encouraging for you?

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c. How has your study of who God is and His teachings changed your understanding of God, who you are in Him, and who He is in you?

d. How has your study of the deity and doctrine shaped your understanding of who Jesus is, as well as His role and purpose?

e. Write about a recent time God used your knowledge to speak boldly, without fear, to His Glory:

3. Find Lesson 13. Compare your answers to these questions with Questions 6-7 of Lesson 13.

a. Where do you see evidence of God maturing you, as well as growth of your knowledge of God?

b. What do you want to understand better about God, or His Son, Jesus?

c. Who will you bravely ask for help? _____

4. Review your writings in the section "Praying for God's work in our lives".

a. What encourages you?

b. What remains unanswered, or not yet revealed?

c. Who will you bravely ask to pray for you as you wait? _____

5. Which scripture verse will you share with your group so that they may pray that verse on your behalf?
