

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – May 31, 2020

Theme: Nehemiah: A Vessel of Restoration Topic: Right Attitude to God's Word

Main Text: Nehemiah 8:1-18.

Key verse: Joshua 1:8 *'This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.'* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, it was not only the walls which needed repairs. The lives of the people were also in shambles, needing rebuilding *"The exile survivors who are left there in the province are in bad shape"* (Nehemiah 1:3 MSG). So, after sorting out the physical environment, Nehemiah now turns to the key ingredient – the word of God – which will ensure that they continue to enjoy the gains made so far (Acts 20:32). And so, the people turned to Ezra *'to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded Israel.'* (Nehemiah 8:1 NKJV).

1. (a). What do you think would have been the result if all that great work of restoring the walls was without any serious attention to the word of God? (b) If we believe that the word of God is God's command, what is the implication of that to us as believers? (c) What should be the right attitude of someone who considers the word of God as a command rather than an advisory? See Nehemiah 8: 3-6; 9-10; Psalm 119:4-5.

So, Ezra opened the word and read from it from morning till noon. And they listened attentively; reverently and prayerfully. But more than that, *'The Levites ... then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places. They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.'* (Nehemiah 7-8 NLT). And the result was that the people were convicted as they saw how far they had deviated from the commands of God.

2. (a) What resources has God given us to help us understand His word better? See John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:12-14; Ephesians 4:11-13 (b) God has given us teachers and various gifts in the Church, including the Holy Spirit to help us understand His word and apply it. How should this influence our attitude as we approach the word of God, privately and corporately? (c) What should be the proper response of someone who has understood the word of God? Nehemiah 8:16-17.

God commanded Joshua to not let His word depart from his mouth; that Joshua's success was tied to a daily interaction with the word of God (Joshua 1:8). And after the public reading of the word, the family heads, together with the priests and Levites met with Ezra the next day *'to go over the Law in greater detail.'* (Nehemiah 8:13 NLT). It was in doing this that they discovered a relevant application of the word – something they had been neglecting for decades! Not only that, their further investigation led to the public reading of the word for seven more days.

3. (a). Look at Nehemiah 8:13-17; 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:16-17. What are some benefits of in-depth study of the word? (b). What is the role of family heads and spiritual leaders in promoting a deeper investigation of the word of God? (c) Let some participants share personal applications from this study, especially in applying the command in Joshua 1:8.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have given us precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Please help us to be consistent in obeying Your word as the Holy Spirit unfolds them to us. In Jesus Name, amen.