

## Restoration – Return to the Word of God

Without the Word of God our restoration will not stand. We will be like the house that Jesus spoke about that was swept clean and the demons, on returning and finding it empty, brought with them more demons and the person's life was worse than before. Our lives would be like the house built on the sand. It looks nice until the storms of life come and it collapses.

Without the guidance of Gods Word we will be restored merely to head for destruction again.

Nehemiah 8: 1 – 18

### 1) Restoration brings a hunger for the Word of God (1 – 3)

- Deuteronomy 8: 3 “He (The Lord) humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”
- Matthew 5: 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”
- The people told Ezra to bring out the Word of God. (v. 1)
  - They had an eager desire to hear what the Word of God had to say to them.
  - They took initiative to get into the Word of God.
  - They didn't have to be pushed or coerced into getting into the Word of God.
  - One of the ways we monitor our spiritual state is by our willingness and desire to get into the Word of God.
  - Do we read it just because we know we ought to, or do we read it because you are eager to know the mind and will of God?
  - How much time do we spend reading and studying the Bible?
  - People in China walk for days just to find a copy of the Bible. In our freedom we have taken the Bible for granted.
- They listened attentively to the Word of God from daybreak to noon. (v. 3)
  - They took in and absorbed the word of God.
  - They weren't just going through the motions.
  - It is easy to read the Bible quickly and not even know what we have read. If we do this then it is the same as not having read it at all.
- Attentive listening to the Word of God:
  - Listening with expectation that God is going to speak to you.
  - Meditation on what is said or read. Ask questions such as:
    - What is God saying to me?
    - Is He promising me something?
    - Is He commanding me to do something to obey?
    - Is He encouraging me?
    - Is He warning me about something in my life?
  - Study the Word of God

2) Being impacted by the Word of God (4 – 12)

- When Ezra opened the book of the Law the people stood up – they showed respect to the law of God or Word of God. (v. 5)
- Delving into the Word of God leads us to worship God. (v.6)
- We gain understanding and insight of God’s will and purposes from the Word of God (v 8)
- It brings a sense of brokenness when we realize that we have fallen short of God’s will and purposes (v. 9)
- Returning to God’s will and purposes brings joy and the joy of the Lord is our strength. (v. 10)
  - John 15: 10, 11 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”
- It also brings a peace of mind and heart (v. 12)

3) Obedience to the Word of God (13 – 18)

- Ultimately reading, listening, studying, meditating on the Word of God doesn’t mean a thing if we aren’t going to obey it.
- James 1: 22 – 25 “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.”
- James 4: 17 “Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.”
- Knowledge of the Word of God brings responsibility to obey the truth that has been revealed.

Do you have a hunger for the Word of God?

Has the Word of God made an impact on your life?

Are you being obedient to God?