

NEHEMIAH 10

Introduction

At the beginning of nearly every one of our worship services at Good Shepherd, we confess our sins to the Lord and hear his absolution, announcing that we are fully forgiven in Christ Jesus. Some have wondered why we would start our worship services in such a sad and depressing way. Confessing our sins out loud removes pride, recalling the different ways that we have failed to be what God asks of us. But it is only with this humble recognition, admitting our unworthiness of anything good God has done for us or given to us, that we can fully appreciate the love and mercy of God. Such “distress” leads us again to the one who fully and completely removes that distress by what he has done for us – forgiving us of our sins, sending them away to be drowned in the depths of the sea and never to be dredged back up again. Only then are we ready to say to the Lord, “I trust you, Lord. I’m ready to listen to you, Lord. Lead me and help me to follow you, Lord.”

That’s where God’s people were on that day of sacred assembly as they listened to God’s Word read to them and humbly recognized their record of sinful rebellion and disobedience of the Lord. They had confessed their sins while finding comfort in God’s grace, mercy and compassion. Now what? Was it time to go back to their rebellious ways? Absolutely not! Look at chapter 10 which is led into by the final verse of chapter 9.

Nehemiah 9:38-10:28-39

1. What did the message of God’s forgiveness prompt God’s people to do?

2. The next verses give some very specific things that the Israelites saw the need to correct as they strived to follow God’s will. Let’s identify and better understand them.

vs 30

vs 31

vs 32,33

vs 34

vs 35-39

3. What common thread(s) do you find running through these reforms?

Next week we finish up our study of the book of Nehemiah, as Nehemiah heads back to Persia. God’s blessings on your Holy Week and hope to be able to worship with you in person or online. We’ll see you next week!