

The Requirements of the Covenant

Nehemiah 10:28-31

Intro:

Last week in chapter 9:32-38 we considered:

The Renewal of the Covenant.

In the first 27 verses of this chapter 10 we have:

The Ratifiers of the Covenant.

Or “those that sealed” lit, put their seal to the
Covenant. verse 1

Which included:

Nehemiah himself verse 1

21 Priests verses 2-8

17 Levites verses 9-13

44 Chiefs verses 14-27

Now tonight we want to look at verses 28-39 of chapter 10 under the heading:

The Requirements of the Covenant.

Note 1;

Even though the Covenant was sealed by a representative number, it included all the people of God.

See:

Neh 10:28 And the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the porters, the singers, the Nethinims, and all they that had separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, every one having knowledge, and having understanding;

Consider:

In this verse we have a variety of people united by one common theme.

They had all:

“separated themselves from the people of the lands unto the law of God”

This was and is the essential element of making a Covenant as the people of God.

Consider:

It is both negative and positive.

Negative:

“separated themselves from the people of the lands”

Positive:

“unto the law of God”

Compare:

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2Co 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

2Co 6:18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

The word: “**separate**”

G873

ἀφορίζω

aphorizō

af-or-id'-zo

From G575 and G3724; to *set off* by boundary, that is, (figuratively) *limit, exclude, appoint*, etc.: - divide, separate, sever.

This word is translated in Matthew as

*Mat 13:49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and **sever** the wicked from among the just,*

Also:

Our text speaks positively of a separation:

“unto the law of God”

The phrase “law of God”

Is only found 7 times in scripture.

Jos 24:26; Neh 8:8; Neh 8:18; Neh 10:28; Rom 7:22; Rom 7:25; Rom 8:7;

3 of those times is in this little book of Nehemiah.

So comparatively it is a dominant theme.

3rd;

We see in verse 28.

The essential ingredient in our hearing of the word.

“every one having knowledge, and having understanding”

Compare:

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

App:

It is in the knowledge and understanding of the truth that true freedom is found.

4th;

The honour and glory of God becomes the priority in this Covenant.

Even to any cost of their own!

Verse 29:

Neh 10:29 They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

Note:

The law of God is defined as:

“which was given by Moses the servant of God”

They were not altering anything to suit themselves.

They were obeying exactly what was already there in the Law.

Consider:

3 phrases are used in connection with keeping the law.

*“to **walk** in God's law”*

*“and to **observe**”*

*“and **do all** the commandments of the LORD our Lord”*

This is such good example for us as a body of God's people.

We should daily ask our selves these questions;

Do I Walk in God's law?

Do I observe God's law?

Do I Do All his commandments?

5th;

Covenant regarding Marriage.

Neh 10:30 And that we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land, nor take their daughters for our sons:

Consider:

The two parts here.

“we would not give our daughters unto the people of the land”

“nor take their daughters for our sons”

The second might be more difficult to implement but just as vital to practice.

Compare:

Exodus 34: 10-16

Where mixed marriages lead to Idolatry.

6th;

Covenant regarding the Sabbath.

Neh 10:31 And if the people of the land bring ware or any victuals on the sabbath day to sell, that we would not buy it of them on the sabbath, or on the holy day:

7th;

Covenant and its relationship to mercy

31b

“and that we would leave the seventh year, and the exaction of every debt.”

See Deut. 15: 1-2