

'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

Message 16 - 'What Follows 'Amen'? (1) Nehemiah 9v33 - 10:31



As we have been considering over these past weeks we have seen that the people in Nehemiah have experienced a mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God upon them, a great awakening. They have been brought under the Word of God, and the Spirit has worked within them. The people have experienced conviction, repentance, pleading with God for mercy, celebration; all of these things have been brought about by the returning to the Word of God. Yet, the out-working of this great movement has seen all the people join together to forge a covenant that illustrates their desire to follow the Lord. We began to examine what their reaction was. It is one thing to hear a wonderful sermon, it is one thing to read a good book, it is one thing to be thrilled in worship, it is another to put into practice those things that have spoken to us. Yet, the people were committed, and covenanted together; we can see the first aspect of this in these verses:

- **They Placed Themselves Under the Authority of the Scriptures** - With regards to the characteristics of this covenant, one of the things we need to see is this, it was not an agreement on a whim. It is placed under the authority of the Scriptures. Everything that is in this formal commitment and response is because of the people's desire to honour and keep the specific Old Testament demands. Nothing deserves a higher level of service or obedience from us than God, and God has expressed His will in the Bible. The people show real evidence of spiritual life and a desire to hunger after God, walking in His ways. They placed themselves under the authority of the Scriptures.

The question needs to be asked of us, have we placed ourselves under the authority of the Scriptures? I am speaking now of being honest with ourselves and before the Lord. Are you, am I living in a way that seeks to be ordered by the Word of God as the Spirit of God applies that truth to our hearts?



Penzance Baptist Church

'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs