

I. Introduction and Review.

- A. The Restoration of the City: Rebuilding the Wall. Nehemiah 1-7
- B. The Restoration of the People: Revival. Nehemiah 8-13
- C. Revivals in the Church. God Periodically Visits His People.

II. Revival is Founded Upon the Word of God (Beginning with the Mind). v. 1-8

- A. The People are Eager to Hear the Word.
 - 1. God is the Author of Scripture. v. 1 II Tim. 3:16 II Pet. 1:21
 - 2. They are Clamoring for the Word to be Proclaimed to Them. v. 1b, 13
 - 3. The Whole Congregation is Hungry for Truth. v. 1a
 - 4. People of Every Age and Gender Participate. v. 2 Deut. 31:12 Josh. 8:35
 - a. Why are the children in our services? Deut. 6:6ff
 - b. Heads of families have a particular duty to be attentive to Scripture. v. 13 Dt. 6:1f
 - 5. The People are Attentive to the Word (A Lengthy Exposition) v. 3, 18 Lk. 10:38-42
 - 6. The People Revere God's Word. v. 5-6 Should we worship as they did? I Tim. 2:8
- B. The Leaders Make The Scriptures Plain. v. 4, 7-8 Ps. 119:34
 - 1. Arrangements are made so that those who Expound the Word can be seen and heard.
 - 2. The Word of God is to be Read as Part of Worship. v. 3 I Tim. 4:13
 - 3. The Bible Must be Explained So that People Can Understand. v. 7-8 II Chron. 17:9
 - a. God's people must have the Word of God in a language they can grasp.
 - b. Expository Preaching.
 - c. The Expounding of the Bible Takes a Significant Amount of Time in worship.

v.3

- C. Do We See Such a Love for God's Word in the Churches Today?
 - 1. Some Emphasize Ritual without Proclamation.
 - 2. Many Seek to Stir Up Interest in Christianity by Appealing to Felt Needs of Sinners, While Neglecting the Proclamation of God's Word. II Tim. 4:2-4

III. Revival Stirs the Feelings of God's People (The Emotional Response to the Word). v. 9-12

- A. The Initial Response is Grief Over Sin. v. 9 II Chron. 34:19-21
 - 1. The Proclamation of the Word Brings Deep Conviction of Sin. Ps. 51:1-9 32:3-4
 - 2. Repentance is Necessary Before God's Grace can be Fully Appreciated. II Cor. 7:9-10
Many try to have mirth and merriment without godly sorrow and repentance.
- B. After the Sorrow of Repentance Comes the Joy of Forgiveness and Restored Fellowship with God. v. 10-12 Ps. 51:7-13 32:1-2,11 Matt. 5:4 Deut. 16:11 I Chron. 16:27
 - 1. The Balm of the Gospel of Grace Heals the Wounds Inflicted by the Law. Lev. 23:27 Rom. 10:11 8:1 Luke 15:11-32
 - 2. God Would Not Have You to Wallow in Your Sin.
 - 3. We are to be a People of Joy. v. 10b Phil. 4:4f John 15:11
 - a. We are strengthened even in the face of our sin.
Our joy and strength is not in our worthiness (self esteem), but in God's grace!
 - b. We are strengthened in spite of difficult circumstances in the world. Rom. 8:28
Our Security is in God, not Walls of defense. I Cor. 10:13
 - c. There is no True Joy or Strength Apart from Fellowship with God.
 - 4. We Share Our Joy with Others. v. 10a, 12 5:14-18 Deut. 14:29

IV. Revival Produces Obedience Among God's People (The Volitional Result). v. 13-18

- A. Knowledge and Feelings are Not Enough. James 1:22
 - 1. Some Have Great Knowledge, but Remain Unaffected by What They have Learned.
II Tim. 3:7 I Cor. 8:1 John 5:39
 - 2. Others are Caught Up in Religious Emotionalism. Rom. 10:2

- B. God's People Act Upon the Word. v. 13-18 James 1:22
 - 1. They had Been Neglecting the Feasts God had Proclaimed. v. 14 Lv. 23:23-25,39-44
 - 2. The Effect of Revival in the History of the Church.
 - 3. How would Spiritual Renewal Affect Us Today?
 - a. Hunger for the Word of God would grow. v. 13
 - b. God's people would be eager to worship Him and to pray.
 - c. Attention would be given to the ordinances which have been neglected by many.
 - d. Radical obedience would take place.
 - e. The community would be affected.
- C. Obedience Brings Overflowing Joy. v. 17-18 Deut. 16:14

V. Revival is a Sovereign Work of God.

- A. God Sends Revival in His Time and in His Way.
 - 1. Ezra had been in the Land for Over 13 Years. Ez. 7:6,25-26
 - 2. God Chose at This Time to Stir the Hearts of His People.
 - 3. Such is the Pattern of History.
- B. Man Cannot Create Revival on his own.
 - 1. The Hearts of those who are Dead in Sin must be Renewed by the Power of the Spirit
I Cor. 2:14 Rom. 3:10ff John 6:37,44 Acts 13:48 16:14 Eph. 2:8-9
 - 2. Many in Our Day try to Produce Man-Made Revival.
 - a. Such practices are based upon faulty theology.
 - b. They often resort to unscriptural practices and emotional manipulation to maximize outward results.
 - c. Many false converts are produced. I Cor. 3:10-15
 - d. Does this mean that no-one is saved through such means? Phil. 1:18
- C. What Should We Do if We Want to See Revival?
 - 1. Pray. v. 6
 - 2. Faithfully Proclaim God's Word. Isa. 55:11
 - 3. Applying These Means of Grace Will not Automatically or Mechanically Produce
a Revival: God Must Send Revival! Jer. 31:33 Ezek. 11:19 36:26 37:1ff

VI. Concluding Application.

- A. Revival Begins Among the People of God.
- B. We Have Great Cause to Celebrate Today!