

**Vision Re-cast**  
"Vision: A People Living for God"  
**Nehemiah 9-10**  
Sunday, January 29, 2012

**INTRODUCTION:**

**Centrality of God's Word (8:1-10:39)**

- A. The law is read (**8:1-8**)
- B. Initial response: Mourning to Joy (**8:9-12**)
- C. Deliberate response: Feast of Booths (**8:13-18**)
- D. Lasting response: Confession & Repentance (**9:1-38**)
  1. Preparation (**vv.1-5**)
    - a) Perseverance
    - b) Gathering
    - c) With expectation (fasting)
    - d) Before the Word
  2. Prayerful Response (**vv.6-38**)
    - a) Acknowledgement of God's nature and work
    - b) Agreement of personal condition (Feast of Booths was no mere ceremony...a reminder)
    - c) Repentance (individually and corporately)
  3. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
    - a) Emphasize the importance of congregational prayer
    - b) Establish scheduled nights of elder-led prayer
    - c) Encourage confession because all of our sin has been carried away in Christ
- E. Renewed Commitment of the People (**10:1-39**)
  1. The Community is the people of God (**vv.1-28**)
    - a) Individuals & Family groups
    - b) Personal responsibility
    - c) Corporate responsibility
  2. The Community in Covenant Fellowship (**vv.29-39**)
    - a) Word-centered
    - b) Community as Kingdom (this is VISION lived out...)
  3. **UBC IMPLICATIONS:**
    - a) When we gather, we must...
    - b) Do our best in our membership process to communicate the serious joy that is covenant community
    - c) **BECOME AN EXEMPLARY CHURCH THAT CAN BE EMULATED IN ANY CULTURE ON THE PLANET BECAUSE THE CORE IS CLEAR AND CLEARLY BIBLICAL**
    - d) **1 Peter 1:13-21**

**Conclusion:**

- VISION is about seeing. The church should envision being a place of great joy!
  - **Nehemiah 12:43** *And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.*
  - **GOD MAKES THIS JOY HAPPEN IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE**
    - They rejoiced in the hearing of the Word (**Neh. 8:5-6**)
    - They rejoiced in the understanding of the Word (**Neh. 8:12**)

- They rejoiced in the doing of the Word (**Neh. 8:17**)
  - WHEN PEOPLE REJOICE YOU CANNOT SILENCE THE EXTENT OF THEIR JOY
    - What is our stated passion?
    - Glorifying God by Treasuring Christ above all things and Reaching others that THEY MAY FIND LASTING JOY IN HIM!!!
  - **Psalm 119:14-16**