

Passion Revisited – Passion Proclaimed
Nehemiah 8

Introduction:

OUR PASSION:

GLORIFYING God by TREASURING Christ above all things and REACHING others that they may find lasting joy in Him!

- As we focused on our passion statement last week, the focal point of that message was treasuring Christ.
- As I believe that treasuring Christ is the watershed truth in our passion statement (explain that), I believe that the proclamation of the Word of God is the watershed truth in living out our passion in biblical community.
- **INTRODUCTION TO NEHEMIAH**
 - The main theme of Nehemiah is God's faithful provision and Israel's faithful worship, particularly the keeping of the Torah, the Law.
 - NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER (**Neh.1:4-11**)
 - Summary of **Nehemiah 1-7**

The Word Proclaimed (vv.1-8)

- A) In the midst of the Gathering (**vv.1-2a**)
- B) With Clarity (**v.2b**)
- C) With Understanding (**v.3a**)
- D) Before Attentive Ears (**v.3b**)
- E) From a Central Place (**v.4**: pulpit – a place for the Word, not a personality)
- F) Alongside Capable Men (**v.4b**)
- G) For the Blessing of the People (**vv.5-7**)
 - a. For their Seeing

- b. Unity around Truth
- c. God-ward Focus
- d. Corporate Humility

- H) With Essential Explanation (**v.8**)
 - a. Only what's needed to understand the text
 - b. Meaning of the text is the meaning of the message

The Word Received (vv.9-12)

- A) Receive as True (**v.9**)
 - a. Initial Response
 - b. Receptive to Instruction (from trusted men)
- B) Receive as Sufficient (**vv.10-12**)
 - a. Rejoicing in Holiness (humble instruction)
 - b. Eager to Embrace the Word in the Home

The Word Exercised (vv.13-18)

- A) In the Context of the Home (**v.13**)
 - a. Realized role as head of household
 - b. Family within biblical community
- B) From description, prescription, command, to action (**vv.14-16**)
 - a. Believe what is proclaimed
 - b. Be convinced it is true
 - c. Truth applied is true belief (a God-honoring form of cultural relevancy with scripture)
- C) For the good of God's people (**vv.17-18**)
 - a. They were returning from Babylonian captivity
 - b. Seeing scripture applied to a new generation
 - c. Pleasing God out of proclaiming the Word of God is for the Joy of His people!
 - d. "Take home" value of the Word proclaimed is best realized in the day to day reading of the Word (over time, exposition should provoke the listener to daily reading and devotion)

- D) For the Glory of God in the gospel
 - a. Reminder of God's deliverance
 - b. Covenant keeping God
 - i. Day of Atonement (not mentioned but in 7th month)
 - ii. Feast of Booths
 - 1. Celebrated God's provision in harvest
 - 2. Celebrated God's presence in the wilderness at the Exodus out of Egypt
 - c. **Zech.14:16-18**
 - d. **John 7:1-2**

- b. Establishing and submitting to God-ordained leaders
- c. Lasting reform
- d. To live as God's covenant people, we need to Word proclaimed regularly in our lives in Community
 - i. **Gal.3:15-18**
 - ii. **Gal.3:23-29**

- E) We use **2 Timothy 3:15-17** with our **LifeGroups** to help promote this sense of biblical sufficiency

Conclusion

- A) The purpose of biblical exposition:
 - a. Glorifying God
 - b. Life Transformation
 - c. Here at UBC, it is the main means of battling for and living out our passion: **GLORIFYING God by TREASURING Christ above all things and REACHING others that they may find lasting joy in Him!**
- B) The benefits of biblical exposition:
 - a. Know that you're doing what was instituted by God and practiced by His followers throughout history
 - b. Focus on that which brings Faith
 - c. Protects you from me...me from me...and me from you!
 - d. Keeps the church God-ward when we have a radical tendency to be man-ward.
 - e. Helps insure the gospel is central to our message.
 - f. Deepens our daily dependence on the Scriptures and trust of its sufficiency.
- C) The results of biblical exposition:
 - a. Changed lives
 - b. **Isaiah 55:10-11**, "**10** For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but **it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**"

The Word Sufficient (9:1-38)

"The new plan is to assimilate the church to the world, and so include a larger area within its bounds. By semi-dramatic performances they make houses of prayer to approximate to the theater; they turn their services into musical displays, and their sermons into political harangues or philosophical essays — in fact, they exchange the temple for the theater, and turn the ministers of God into actors, whose business it is to amuse men. Is it not so, that the Lord's-day is becoming more and more a day of recreation or of idleness, and the Lord's house either a joss-house full of idols, or a political club, where there is more enthusiasm for a party than zeal for God? Ah me! the hedges are broken down, the walls are levelled, and to many there is henceforth, no church except as a portion of the world, no God except as an unknowable force by which the laws of nature work. This, then, is the proposal. In order to win the world, the Lord Jesus must conform himself, his people, and his Word to the world. I will not dwell any longer on so loathsome a proposal."

- **Charles Spurgeon** (Oct.7,1888)

- A) To Convict of Sin (**vv.1-5**)
 - a. New application of the Scriptures
 - b. **1 Cor.10:6-14**,
- B) To Worship God (**vv.6-8**)
- C) To Bring Lasting Change (**vv.9-31**)
- D) To Live Godly Lives (**vv.32-38**)
 - a. In Covenant with God (**chp.10**)