

## NEHEMIAH 9:38-10:39

### A. Introduction

1. Nehemiah is a great book for us to be looking at together in our elder's meetings.

It is a book about building a community of God's people.

It is a book about God's provision for His people as they wait for King Jesus to come.

It is a book that will be helpful for us as we plan for the next 10 years of Banstead Community Church.

2. Following the rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem, God put it on Nehemiah's heart to repopulate the city.

He set his mind on seeing a community of God's people built up in the city.

In Nehemiah 8 we saw that God's means for building and building up a community of His people is His Word.

In Nehemiah 9 we saw that hearing God's Word led to God's people confessing their sins and praising their God.

3. In Nehemiah 10, it leads to God's people demonstrating their trust in God by renewing their commitment to obey His Word in the future.

"The rest of the people – priests, Levites, gatekeepers, singers, temple servants and all who separated themselves from the neighbouring peoples for the sake of the Law of God, together with their sons and daughters who are able to understand – all these now join their brothers the nobles, and bind themselves with a curse and an oath to follow the Law of God given through Moses the servant of God and to obey carefully all the commands, regulations and decrees of the LORD our Lord." (Nehemiah 10:28-29)

Trusting God meant separating from the world around them.

Trusting God meant following God's Word.

The seriousness of their commitment is seen as they make an oath and a curse – they said that it would be right for God to bring His curse of judgment down upon them if they failed to obey.

The issue is whether they will trust God to tell them what is best.

There were three areas where they had not been doing this.

### B. Those who trust God do not marry outside of His people

1. The people of Israel said that they would no longer enter into mixed marriages.

"We promise not to give our daughters in marriage to the peoples around us or take their daughters for our sons." (Nehemiah 10:30)

Will they trust what God's Word says about marriage?

2. What does this mean today?

"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)

God's people should not marry outside the people of God.

God's people should not marry the spirit of the age.

### **C. Those who trust God keep the Sabbath**

1. The people of Israel said that they would observe the Sabbath.

"When the neighbouring peoples bring merchandise or grain to sell on the Sabbath, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on any holy day. Every seventh year we will forgo working the land and will cancel all debts." (Nehemiah 10:31)

Keeping the Sabbath and the Sabbath year was expression of trust that God would provide for them.

Will they trust what God's Word says about keeping the Sabbath?

2. What does this mean today?

God's people rest by trusting in Christ.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

God's people trust Christ by setting aside one day in seven.

### **D. Those who trust God support the ministry of the temple**

1. The people of Israel said they would support financially the worship of God in the temple.

"We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give a third of a shekel each year for the service of the house of our God: for the bread set out on the table; for the regular grain offerings and burnt offerings; for the offerings on the Sabbaths, New Moon festivals and appointed feasts; for the holy offerings; for sin offerings to make atonement for Israel; and for all the duties of the house of our God." (Nehemiah 10:32-33)

"We will not neglect the house of our God." (Nehemiah 10:39)

Will they trust what God's Word says about supporting the work of ministry in the temple?

2. What does this mean today?

God's people are committed to the local church.

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

God's people support gospel ministry.

"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:14)

### **E. Application**

1. The importance of church membership.

"In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement, putting it in writing, and our leaders, our Levites and our priests are affixing their seals to it." (Nehemiah 9:38)

Nehemiah lists the people who were committed to trusting God by obeying His Word.

Our membership list, lists the people who have committed to trusting God by separating themselves from the world, resting in Christ and being devoted to His people.

## 2. The importance of Sundays.

Sunday is the time when we encourage the members of Banstead Community Church to renew their commitment to do this.

We lead the way.

“Those who sealed it were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah.” (Nehemiah 10:1)