

Community Group Study Guide

Restoration Through Repentance Ezra 9 & 10

Main Idea

Sin Separates, Repentance Restores.

Overview

Fight Sin with Faith

- The underlying cause of the Israelites sin faithlessness (9:2, 4; 10:2, 4, 10)

Remember Sin Affects Those Around Us

- The official and the chief men were foremost in disobedience (9:3)
- Of those guilty parties listed in 10:18-44, 27 were leaders and 80+ were followers

Understand Sin Brings Guilt and Requires Repentance

- Ezra's prayer is 100% confession
- Ezra's prayer acknowledges their guilt (9:6, 7, 13, 15)
- Guilt brings God's wrath that is only turned away by a guilt offering, a proper substitutionary sacrifice (10:14, 19)
- Christ is our guilt offering (Is. 53:6, 10-12)

Realize Genuine Repentance is Motivate by Grace and Results in Changed Behavior

- Ezra recognizes the grace of God; the mention of 'remnant' five times in his prayer (9:8, 13, 14, 15)
- The Israelites understand the grace of God, therefore they repent (10:2-3) and change their behavior

Questions

- Intermarriage was just a symptom of a deeper issue. What happens if we simply focus on symptoms and not the root issue? How do we identify root issues?
- You can choose you sin, but not it's consequences. How do we know this is true both, from the text and from experience? What are some practical ways we can remind ourselves of this truth?
- We have seen the wrath of God several times in Ezra (7:23; 8:21; 10:14). Why do we often shy away from talking about God's wrath? Is it important to talk about God's wrath? And if so, why? What are some practical applications of how a Christian can find rest in the gospel?
- What happens if you focus on changed behavior apart from understanding and being motivated by Gods' grace? How can we tell if we are simply regretting or repenting?