

# Community Group Study Guide

## Returning to the Word Nehemiah 7:1-8:12

### Main Idea

Restoration is dependent upon a proper understanding of the word of God combined with a worship filled joy in response to its reading us and our world

### Overview

- I. Restoration Depends upon the Understanding of the Word
  - A. "Understanding" is emphasized – mentioned 5 times in 12 verses
  - B. "Law" is emphasized - mentioned 8 times in 12 verses
  - C. "People" is emphasis – mentioned 12 times in 12 verses
  - D. The people's understanding of God's word is imperative to knowing restoration with God and God's world
  - E. Where you neglect the Word of God be it the church you go to or the lack of personal study you neglect health and cultivate destruction
  
- II. Restoration Depends upon responding to the Word in Worship
  - A. After Ezra preaches the people respond in adoration and bow down in humility before God
  - B. The Bible was given for this purpose...to have us learn about God that we would worship Him
    1. Bible is not an end unto itself
    2. It is the means of God's grace to bring people to proper worship
  
- III. Restoration Depends upon your Seeing the Joy of the Lord as your strength
  - A. People begin to weep in light of their great rebellion
  - B. Leaders tell them to be joyful for it was a Holy Day (Being Feast of Trumpets)
    1. They were to be considering their state before God; makes sense why there is weeping
  - C. Admonition was to "not be grieved for the joy of the Lord is your strength"
    1. Having just read of how God saved their people from slavery and brought them into the land of Promise they were reminded of God's grace in salvation
    2. Therefore it was the joy of that God that had saved them though they had rebelled
    3. They relied upon not their own strength on that day of judgment, but their joy in the Lord who has saved them that will be their strength
  - D. Christ says that those Scriptures they read point to Him (John 5.39-47)
    1. Jesus is the strength of our salvation for all who have joy in Him who has died and resurrected for them

### Questions

1. How does the Word bring about complete restoration? Why is it we so often neglect it?
2. What is the importance of the Word in the life of the believer and his/her church?
3. What does it look like to respond in worship after having understood the word? How can we cultivate an atmosphere of worship in response to the understanding of the word?
4. How is it joy and the understanding the word come together? How does Christ answer the importance of the Word of God?