

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

(Nehemiah 8:1-8)

For the glory of God, in obedience to Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we, as a Church, strive together to fulfill this mission: *We are a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church which Proclaims God's Word, Equips God's People and Witnesses to the Lost.*

The proclamation of God's Word is always at the heart of the life and ministry of God's people. As we reflect on this historical narrative, let's consider three compelling reasons why we as a church are committed to the proclamation of God's Word.

1. *The _____ demands the proclamation of God's Word.*

It's one thing to rebuild the social and economic life of a nation. But it's another thing to revitalize the spiritual life of the people. For God's people to constantly enjoy the favor of God, there needs to be the prioritizing of God and His Word. Nehemiah 8 depicts the biblical pattern of the worship life of God's redeemed people: (a) God gathers His people together (Neh. 8:1; 1:8-9); (b) God's people long for His Word (Neh. 8:1; Jer. 15:6; Psalm 119:20,97); (c) God's Word is passionately read and attentively heard (Neh. 8:2-4); (d) God's Word is clearly explained (Neh. 8:7-8; 1 Tim. 4:13); (e) God's people respond in reverent worship (Neh. 8:5-6). Whenever God's Word is faithfully proclaimed as it is passionately read, attentively heard and clearly explained, we are reawakened to the beauty, majesty and glory of who God is.

2. *The _____ demands the proclamation of God's Word.*

The sacred gathering of God's people in Jerusalem includes not only men and women but also those "*who could understand what they heard*" (Neh. 8:2-3). This refers to the children of those Israelites as they all assembled together as families to listen to the reading and the explanation of God's Word. Essential to family discipleship is the instruction and proclamation of God's Word (Deut. 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4). Every family in our church should be a discipleship group committed to the reading, meditation and application of God's Word and devoted to a regular time of family worship (Gen. 35:2-3).

3. *The _____ demands the proclamation of God's Word.*

Israel, as God's chosen people, was uniquely called by God to be the gospel light to all nations by staying in the Promised Land as worshippers of Yahweh, obeying God's Word and living in righteousness for the purpose of attracting other nations to trust in the promised Messiah who was to come. The New Testament Church, on the other hand, is called to fulfill the Great Commission which is to go throughout the world and declare the good news that Jesus is the Messiah and faith in Him alone and His saving work on the Cross could reconcile sinners back to God (Mark 16:15). As a church, we are called to proclaim the Word of God to all people because saving faith only comes by hearing the Word of Christ (Rom. 10:17).
