

**Title:** A Commitment to Godly Living

**Passage:** Nehemiah 10

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Draft Summary:

Key commitments we should make for God's glory:

- I. Commitment to submit to God's Word (v.28-29)
- II. Commitment to sexual purity for themselves and their kids (v.30)
- III. Commitment to keep God's day holy (v.31a)
- IV. Commitment to be ethical and not be greedy (v. 31b)
- V. Commitment to give generously to God's kingdom (v.32-38)
- VI. Commitment to make church a priority. (v.39)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Share how one or more of these commitments have specifically impacted your life.
- Which of the commitments do you need to renew your focus?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

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**EXPOSITION**

**Recap of Nehemiah**

- Written around 450 B.C.
- Israel was taken captive by the Babylon Empire (150 years before Nehemiah)
- Nehemiah has a conviction to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Boldly asks of the king of financial support and time off to do so, which is miraculously granted.
- In Jerusalem, Nehemiah experiences opposition both within and without the people of God.
- By God's grace, Nehemiah and Israelites rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days.
- Thereafter, one of the first things done next is for the Word of the God to be read.
  - After three weeks of reading God's Word, they continue to do so and have a spiritual revival.

**Introduction**

Template of true revival: true repentance

True repentance - several elements:

- Admit, confess, and acknowledge their sin.
  - Sin = propensity/desire to do what we want to do against God's standards.
- Ask for forgiveness
  - without excuses
- Repentance
  - Turning from the old ways and towards God's ways
- Commitment to holiness
  - Not just words but also action

Note: if not a Christian, you cannot “commit” to doing good.

- You must first have a heart of repentance of sin and receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

### Overview

Key commitments we should make for God’s glory:

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### Nehemiah 10:1-27

“On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, Zedekiah, Seraiah, Azariah, Jeremiah, Pashhur, Amariah, Malchijah, Hattush, Shebaniah, Malluch, Harim, Meremoth, Obadiah, Daniel, Ginnethon, Baruch, Meshullam, Abijah, Mijamin, Maaziah, Bilgai, Shemaiah; these are the priests. And the Levites: Jeshua the son of Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad, Kadmiel; and their brothers, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan, Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah, Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah, Hodiah, Bani, Beninu. The chiefs of the people: Parosh, Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani, Bunni, Azgad, Bebai, Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin, Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur, Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai, Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai, Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir, Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua, Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah, Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub, Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek, Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah, Ahiah, Hanan, Anan, Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

- Heads of the households that represents all the people

### **I. COMMITMENT TO SUBMIT TO GOD’S WORD (v.28-29)**

#### **Nehemiah 10:28-29**

***“The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes.***

*to the Law of God...and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God’s Law that was given by Moses the servant of God*

- Meaning = we commit to obey God’s law. If we do not, then we are ready to be under the curses under God’s law.

### Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God,

obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

- we must make God’s Word as the final authority in our lives.
  - not based on cultural trends on what is popular or admired by those around us.
- When you are in God’s Word on a regular basis, it will impact your life on a day-to-day basis.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

## II. COMMITMENT TO SEXUAL PURITY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR KIDS.

**Nehemiah 10:30**

***We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.***

- The people outside of Israel were pagan people who were worshipping other gods.
- Meaning: we commit not to intermix those who are worshipping other gods.
- Caveat: there is some history of others involved with Israelites such as Rahab and Ruth. But each of them submitted to the God of Israel.
- Contrast: Solomon had fallen in trap and pulled away by pagan wives

2 Corinthians 6:14-15

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?

- it is very, very difficult to be married to a unsaved person as they have never confessed or recognize sin.
- Commit that your children will not go down the route to marry a non-Christian.
- General principle: as long as your children are under your house, encourage your children to pursue godly relationships.

## III. COMMITMENT TO KEEP GOD’S DAY HOLY

**Nehemiah 10:31a**

***And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day.*** Historically, the people of God met the first day of the week to worship.

- In celebration of the resurrection of Jesus.
- Day of the Lord
  - Consider how may center your day on the things of God.
  - Think of God-centered things.
- Culture: to attend a church service on a Thursday or Saturday and keep Sunday for their own purposes.
- God’s people meet corporately on the Lord’s Day to worship God.

#### Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

#### **IV. COMMITMENT TO BE ETHICAL AND NOT BE GREEDY**

##### **Nehemiah 10:31b**

***And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.***

- Every seventh year is the Year of Jubilee the land reverted back to the original owners.
  - Over time, there would be no poverty.
- Meaning: We commit to make a living but not to the full extent of the law or what we are entitled to but instead help others.
- We must be committed to be different than the world. Sometimes we are to take losses for the sake of others.

#### 1 Timothy 6:17-19

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

#### **V. COMMITMENT TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO GOD'S KINGDOM (v.32-38)**

##### **Nehemiah 10:32-38**

***"We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God: for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God. We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law. We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD; also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks; and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor. And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse.***

- They brought the first fruits to the house of the Lord.
  - They made it a priority where they first give to the temple.
- Tithe
  - 10% of what they were making to the temple for the Levites.
- Contrast: In New Testament, is there no tithing?
  - Yes, but Jesus said if have 2 coats, give one = 50%?

- Jesus encourages us to be generous givers. It is not a technical issue but one to give out of the heart.
- The best investment that you can make with your money is with God's kingdom
  - Otherwise, all the stuff you can possibly accumulate will be left behind.

#### 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

### **VI. COMMITMENT TO MAKE CHURCH A PRIORITY**

#### **Nehemiah 10:39**

***For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God."***

*We will not neglect the house of our God.*

- In Old Testament, the temple is where God chose to dwell.
- In the New Testament, God's people are the temple where God chosen today to dwell.
- Exercise: search how many "one another's" are in the Bible.
  - We are not to be an island but to be part of God's family.
    - Why? To grow in Christ.

#### Ephesians 4:15-16

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

### **APPLICATION**

As a Christian, you are called to commit to enjoy salvation for God's glory.

#### Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

If not a Christian, commit your life to Christ.

- What is the purpose of your life now?
- In Christ, you have the greatest purpose possible.

#### John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.