

Standing Firm As God's Church

Nehemiah 12:1-3:3

1. Scripture Driven Worship vs. 1-43

Nehemiah's mission was for Jerusalem to become a city that would allow God's people to live and worship the way God has revealed to them through His word. For God's people to remain faithful, the priest, Levites, singers and gate keepers must be faithfully dependent on God and having the credentials, the character, and the ability to lead the community in preparing themselves for worship and for worshipping Yahweh according to the Scriptures.

Our worship to God is only possible through Jesus becoming our great high priest (Hebrews 7:23-28) who paid the price for our sins through His sacrificial death (John 1:29), so that our worship to God will not be in vain (Titus 2:11-15)

A Church remains faithful to God when a church's leaders are faithfully dependent to God, who have the credentials and the character to lead the congregation in living lives of sacrificial worship to our God (Romans 12:1).

2. Scripture Driven Commitment vs. 44-47

Nehemiah and the people renewed their covenant with God, "We will not neglect the house of our God" (10:39). This covenant would not be neglected if worship and service became a permanent format among the people: their time, their service, and their tithings according to the Scriptures.

Without the people contributing to the service of the house of the LORD, their commitment will be reversed since Jerusalem remains surrounded by hostile neighbors.

A church remains faithful to God when the congregation is intentional in their commitment to bringing God glory in everything that they do: their time, their service, and their tithings according to the Scriptures (Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 4:10-11).

3. Scripture Driven Community 3:1-3

Reading the book of Deuteronomy (23:3-5) led God's people to be driven to protect their "committed to God community" from any opportunity to be swayed by those whose lives do not have allegiance to Yahweh.

A Church that is a light to their neighborhoods through living out and speaking the gospel, while establishing strict boundaries so God's Word will be lived out, is a church that will remain faithful to God. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1)

Questions:

- Is my life scripture driven or driven by things that do not line up with scripture?
- Why do you think community is so integral to proper worship? Why has God called us to worship him corporately?
- In what ways does my commitment to God translate into action in the ways I partake within God's Family; the Church?