



NEHEMIAH

GOD REBUILDS & RESTORES

A Holy Discontent

September 29 & 30 // Jim Johnson

A _____ Question

Nehemiah 1:1-4

A _____ Answer

A _____ Response

TIME WITH GOD: If you don't currently have a Bible reading plan, you can download "Our Time with God" at spcc.tv/resources

REFLECTIONS: Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time this week hearing and responding to Jesus. As you journaled your conversations with Him, describe one thing you felt Him speaking to you about?

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION: What stood out to you in this weekend's message? Did you have any questions?

The United States Census Bureau Records give some startling statistics, backed up by denominational reports: Every year more than 4000 churches close their doors compared to just over 1000 new church starts. In 1992, 22% of Americans "frequently" attended church (2x per month), including Orthodox, Evangelical, or Protestant. In 1995, 20.5% of Americans "frequently" attended church. In 1999, 19% of Americans "frequently" attended church. In 2002, 18.0% of Americans "frequently" attended in church. By extrapolating the data and doing some statistical evaluation and adding some hope for revival, we could see the figures drop to 15% of Americans in attendance at a church by 2025, and a further drop to 11% or 12 % in 2050. Soon, we could catch Europe, currently seeing two to four percent of its population in regular Church attendance.

MY PERSPECTIVE: In your opinion, describe one thing that has contributed to the decline of the church in America?

DIGGING DEEPER:

As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. (Nehemiah 1:4)

Read the following verses: 2 Chronicles 7:13-14; Ephesians 6:18. Do you ever find yourself praying diligently for our church here at SPCC, the U.S. church, the global church? Why or why not?

Read the following verses: Ezra 10:1; Nehemiah 1:6-7; Daniel 9:20; Isaiah 6:5. Describe corporate sins you think today's church should repent of. Which of those sins do you share guilt in?



A recent LifeWay Research study found only 45 percent of those who regularly attend church read the Bible more than once a week. Over 40 percent of the people attending read their Bible occasionally, maybe once or twice a month. Almost 1 in 5 churchgoers say they never read the Bible.

Important researcher and evangelical Christian, George Barna, has written: "The Christian body in America is immersed in a crisis of biblical illiteracy." Barna has surfaced widespread biblical illiteracy in America:

The most widely known Bible verse among adult and teen believers is "God helps those who help themselves." But this is not a verse from Scripture.

Less than one in ten believers possess a biblical worldview as the basis for his/her decision-making.

Only 35% of mainline Protestant church members believe Jesus was sinless.

Only 34% believe the Bible is totally accurate.

Only 27% agree that works do not merit salvation, only faith does.

Only 20% believe that Satan is real.

Barna states, "Literally millions of Americans who declare themselves to be Christian contend that Jesus was just like the rest of us when it comes to temptation—fallen, guilty, impure, and Himself in need of a savior."

MY RESPONSE:

Nehemiah had plenty of personal responsibilities and concerns. But, instead of being inwardly focused, he mourned the spiritual brokenness of God's people far away.

Describe one area where you tend to be inwardly focused. How might God want you to battle that?

When you think of the current condition of the Body of Christ, describe one thing you should be more burdened for. What step can you take toward increasing your heart for that?

