

Dr. John Johnson  
January 28-29, 2006  
Facing Neglect Head On  
Nehemiah 10:32-39

The Israelites have neglected the things of God but are now reconnecting. The story of the rebuilding of the wall in Nehemiah is somewhat of a metaphor for the rebuilding of the people of God. Israel was not supposed to be a mess but rather the light of the world.

The Word of God and the Spirit of God have isolated three areas where the people were in neglect:

- They had neglected their commitment to holiness, so now promised to live a life of separation.
- They had neglected their commitment to the rhythm of the Sabbath, so now promised to enter into God's rest.
- And now, they had neglected the needs of the house of God, so they promised to furnish the needs of the house of God. Nehemiah 10:32
  - They promised to give what would enable corporate worship, vs. 32-34
  - They promised to give the first part of all they obtained, vs. 35-37
  - They promised to give systematically and proportionately, vs. 37b-38

Pastor Johnson's focused points for our application were:

- How we view our resources matters to God: possessed by us or loaned to us; earned by us or gifted to us.
- What we do with our resources matters to God: from possessing to investing with eternal results, making possible people getting right with God; our wealth in eternity; God's blessing; intimacy with God; and spiritual growth.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was strongly brought home to your heart by the Spirit of God from the message of the weekend?
2. What is it that keeps you, all of us, from giving?
3. What have been your success stories in giving? Share a time you gave and God blessed.
4. Because of what you have heard, what would you do differently in your life of giving?