

Recap of 6/9/19 (Nehemiah 10:27-31):

1. Chapter 10 is about the commitment of the people to specific changes in their walk with God. As they realized where they had fallen short, they made plans to correct their failures. Their reaction went beyond the strictly emotional to practical steps.
2. "Most church members live so far below the standard, you'd have to backslide to be in fellowship. We are so subnormal that if we were to become normal, people would think we were abnormal."
(Vance Havner)
3. Since the Israelites were under the Mosaic Law, their failures were failures to keep the Law. We must be careful in trying to apply sections of the Old Testament like this to believers in the Church Age, who are not under the Law. The Law does not directly apply to us but we may find a universal principle to follow (that goes beyond Israel under the Law) or the New Testament may introduce a new principle.
4. The first issue they dealt with was that of intermarriage with unbelieving Gentiles. Such marriages were forbidden under the Law and had devastating consequences to the nation. (Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:3,4; Leviticus 20:26; 1 Kings 11:1-10. The New Testament forbids "unequal yokes," whether in marriage or business, etc. (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
5. "...marriage to those who do not hold sacred things important creates great difficulties in a home. Spiritual differences result in the children being improperly instructed in the ways of the Lord..."
(Hughes)
6. The second issue they dealt with had to do with keeping the Sabbath and the Sabbatical years. (Exodus 20:8-11; 23:10-12; 31:15-17; Leviticus 25:2-7; Deuteronomy 15:1-3). The New Testament teaching on observing the Sabbath is found in passages such as Romans 14:5 and Colossians 2:13-17. It leaves such observances up to the individual conscience. Each Christian is free to observe a day or no day; but is not free to impose their choice on others or condemn other believers for their choice.