

Sermon Discussion Questions

September 11, 2016

NEHEMIAH: Building the Church

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Pastor Bob Hopper

1. Discuss Nehemiah's situation. When and where did he live, what was his life circumstance, and how was he in "the right place at the right time"? What is your life situation, and are you in "the right place at the right time"? What is CPC's current situation, and in what way are we as a congregation "in the right place at the right time"?
2. How does Nehemiah's question (vs. 1-2) reflect his interest in and love for God's people? Cite an example from your own life when someone asked you a question that reflected their love and concern for you? What aspect of our carnality keeps us from asking such questions?
3. Describe the depth of Nehemiah's consternation (vs. 3-4). How is his pain a commentary on his love for God and God's people? Where were you on September 11, 2001, when you learned of the terror attacks upon our country and the deaths of so many Americans? Why did you respond with such deep emotion?
4. Discuss the idea that the depth of our consternation is a reflection of the depth of our identification. In what ways would Nehemiah have identified with the situation in Jerusalem?

Do you agree that sometimes the absence of consternation is due to our ignorance of the situation, while at other times the absence of consternation is due to our lack of love?
5. In what ways does the New Testament describe the church in general and Christ's (and our) identification with it in particular? (see *Acts 9:5; I Cor. 8:12; I Cor. 12:6; I Peter 2:1-12*) Do you agree that a biblical understanding of the church will produce a deep passion for the church?
6. Discuss Nehemiah's petition (prayer) in vs. 5-9. How does this prayer reflect his love for God and for God's people? Do you offer faithful and heartfelt petitions for the welfare of Central Presbyterian Church? If so, why? If not, why not?
7. What is Nehemiah's primary motivation in this account (vs. 10-11)? How does the gospel provide the primary motivation for all we do (see *I John 4:7-11*)? Do you agree that: "If we love the Shepherd we must love His sheep, and if we love the Groom we must love His Bride?"
8. In the 11 verses of our text, what action does Nehemiah take that demonstrates his love for God and for God's people? What action is God calling you to take to demonstrate your love for God and for God's people at Central Presbyterian Church?

9. Pastor Hopper made reference to the “clans” in Scotland. What did a clan provide and how was it identified? How does Jesus create His church to be His “clan”, and how are we to be identified as being part of His clan?