MAKING A COVENANT (Nehemiah 10)

1. SUBMISSION TO THE WORD OF GOD (10:1-27,29)

2. SEPARATION AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD (10:28, 30-31)

3. THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD (10:32-39)

1. It's one thing to offer the Lord a passionate prayer of confession, such as we have in chapter 9, and quite something else to live an obedient life after we say ''Amen."

2. All the people who had heard the Word of God read and explained were now committing themselves to obey what they had heard.

3. Our relationship to the Lord is that of children to a Father, and our Father wants our obedience to be based on love.

4. Separation is simply total devotion to God, no matter what the cost.

5. Matthew 6:33 says Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

6. We must not put on ourselves burdens that God never expected us to carry (Acts 15:10), but neither should we look for the easiest and least demanding way to serve the Lord.

7. Tithing can be a great blessing, but those who tithe must avoid at least three dangers:

(1) Giving with the wrong motive, out of a sense of duty, fear, or greed.

(2) Thinking that they can do what they please with the 90 percent that remains;

(3) Giving only the tithe and failing to give love offerings to the Lord.

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What covenants do people make in our society? Why?

2. How did Nehemiah's people view making a covenant with God? How did they show their sincerity?

3. In what ways did the Jewish people need to be separate from the peoples around them?

4. Why was separation so important to God?

5. How did the Jewish people observe the Sabbath in Nehemiah's day?

6. How can we honor God one day a week?

7. What was significant about each of the following:

The temple tax;

The wood offering;

The first fruits;

The tithes;

8. What covenant do you have with God? For example, what has He done for you? What response have you committed yourself to make, if any?

9. Where do grace and the Holy Spirit fit into this relationship? Where does forgiveness fit?