

One Year Bible – Week 33

Summary: 1 Corinthians Reading

First Corinthians talks of a number of issues about Christian living during the time; from sexual immorality, to lawsuits, to marriage, to food sacrificed to idols. Each of these gives a clearer idea of what the Corinthian church was dealing with in their city.

Summary: Ezra / Nehemiah Reading

Ezra closes with the remnant of Judah traveling to Jerusalem and repenting for intermarrying with those who did not follow God.

The book of Nehemiah takes place within the same time period as the book of Ezra in post exilic Israel. Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls. In Nehemiah's day, walls were essential if a city was to be protected. More than that, city walls contributed significantly to a city having an identity of its own. Nehemiah was not only returning to rebuild Jerusalem's walls, but to restore its identity as the city of the people of God.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- *OT* – An example of putting faith to the test... Ezra and his group of exiles transported a large quantity of money and treasure back from Babylon on their way to Jerusalem. It is said that the journey was across lawless territory which would have necessitated a military escort for protection. However, Ezra was "ashamed" to ask because he had already testified to the king that God's hand was upon all who sought him. (Ezra 8:22) If Ezra sought an escort from the king, the king would question the validity of Ezra's description of his God. On the other hand, with no military escort, Ezra risked losing an irreplaceable sum of treasure and money to be used for rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. This was no easy decision. He had to put his money where his mouth was. He and the returning exiles chose to trust God and God answered their prayer. – Aug 9

Small Group Questions:

- 1) *OT* – Read Ezra chapter 9 paying particular attention to how Ezra perceives God. What was Ezra upset about? Why do you think this problem happened? What do you think about Ezra's reaction to this problem? What catches your attention about Ezra's prayer? How does

Ezra perceive God (cite references that support your thoughts)? How does this passage intersect with the way we live our daily lives? – Aug 9

- 2) *OT* – Read Proverbs 21:2. What is different about human perception and God's perception, in other words, what is this proverb saying? How does this proverb inform the way we should live and what is the difficulty with that? – Aug 9
- 3) *NT* – Often times people will say as a Christian we should not judge. Do you agree or disagree? Read 1Co 5:9-13. What is Paul telling the Corinthian church in this passage? Why do you think Paul is allowing for judgment of believers here? How do you reconcile this passage with Jesus words in Matthew 18:21-35? – Aug 9
- 4) *NT* – Read 1 Co 9:19-27. What do you think Paul means by saying he makes himself "a slave to everyone," (v 19) and "I have become all things to all men." (v 22) What would be some practical examples of this today? Given these words and the metaphor of beating one's body so as to win the prize, is this attitude common or rare in church today? Why? How does your attitude look in comparison with what Paul describes here? What could you do for Paul's words to become more your own? – Aug 15

Journal the Psalms this week:

"Taste and see that YHWH is good." (Ps 34:8) The New Testament is not the only place in Scripture to find an invitation to God. Not only that, but this verse is equivalent to saying "try God." Try God and see that he is good. Journal about your reaction to seeing this invitation in Scripture. What does it say about God? Journal about your experience in seeing that God is good. – Aug 15

Reading Schedule:

Ne = Nehemiah / 1Co = 1 Corinthians / Ps = Psalms / Pr = Proverbs



Aug 9 – Ezra 8:21-9:15 / 1Co 5:1-13 / Ps 31:1-8 / Pr 21:1-2
Aug 10 – Ezra 10:1-44 / 1Co 6:1-20 / Ps 31:9-18 / Pr 21:3
Aug 11 – Ne 1:1-3:14 / 1Co 7:1-24 / Ps 31:19-24 / Pr 21:4
Aug 12 – Ne 3:15-5:13 / 1Co 7:25-40 / Ps 32:1-11 / Pr 21:5-7
Aug 13 – Ne 5:14-7:60 / 1Co 8:1-13 / Ps 33:1-11 / Pr 21:8-10
Aug 14 – Ne 7:61-9:21 / 1Co 9:1-18 / Ps 33:12-22 / Pr 21:11-12
Aug 15 – Ne 9:22-10:39 / 1Co 9:19-10:13 / Ps 34:1-10 / Pr 21:13