

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Confession: Ezra 9:1-15

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 9.

1. From Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 8, how did Ezra's view of God impact how he approached difficult situations?
2. Read Ezra 9:1-2. Who is listed that did not keep themselves separate from the neighboring people? What role did the leaders play? What does this teach you about the importance of the character of leaders and how leaders should be selected and held accountable?
3. Read Ezra 9:1-2 with 1 John 2:15-17, James 1:27 and James 4:4. What did the people do that was viewed by Ezra as unfaithfulness to God? What would this behavior invite into the people of God? How can we remain faithful in this way and still carry the gospel to a lost world?
4. Read Ezra 9:3-4 with Matthew 18:15-17, John 8:3-7 and Galatians 6:1-3. How does Ezra react to the people's behavior? How do Ezra's reactions impact some of those around him and what was the defining characteristic of those who gathered around him? What should you do when you are confronted with the sins of other professing Christians? How have you confronted sin?
5. Read Ezra 9:5-7 with James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10. What does Ezra do when he is done expressing his grief? What does he recognize in his confession and why does he include himself in describing the sin? Why is personal confession an appropriate and necessary response to personal and corporate sin?
6. Read Ezra 9:8-9 with Acts 2:36-39, Romans 5:6-8, and Ephesians 2:1-10. What does Ezra recognize about God and what they had received from Him? How does God continue give new life to those who deserve death and what can you do to receive it? Have you received this free gift and if not what will you do about it?
7. Read Ezra 9:10-12 with John 14:15-25. What commands are listed in Ezra that had been received through the prophets and what were the benefits of following them? Why do you think the Israelites did not keep the command not to intermarry? How does your life show a love of God? How does your life reveal your apathy and disobedience?
8. Read Ezra 9:13-15 with 2 Peter 3:8-13. Why do you think God was so patient with the Israelites when they continued to disobey Him? How has God been patient with you in your sin, not giving you what you deserve? Considering God's patience how should you live?
9. How is the Old Testament teaching of Ezra 9 also a picture of the New Testament gospel message? Why is confession important and what can you do to grow in your love and obedience to God and His word?