



PASTOR'S NOTES

Lessons from Nehemiah: Being a Constant Reformer

Nehemiah 13:1-31, part 2

See Nehemiah 13:15-22

Nehemiah confronted profaning the Sabbath:

Consider what the passage does not teach.

Nehemiah 13 does prohibit Christians from buying fish, grain, or goods on the Sabbath. Although the rhythm of six days of work and one day of rest is excellent, we are not required to keep the law. (See Colossians 2:16-17 and Romans 14:5-6)

Passage principles to consider:

Use righteous anger to your advantage and for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

MeadowBrook's future doctrinal soundness, holiness, and faithful practices are directly linked to our current exercises in truth and discipline.

A case study of the UMC:

"When God's people cease to be on watch against the world, they are already in its grip, and continuous weakening is all that can be expected as long as this negligence lasts." (J. I. Packer)

Worldliness is a constant threat to Christ's church. We must unabashedly conserve biblical truth and practice.

It is not good enough to merely hold to biblical values; we must conserve them, passing them down generationally.

See Malachi 3:6a, Psalm 119:89, and Hebrews 13:7-9

Nehemiah called for marriage and family reforms:

See Nehemiah 13:23-31

Nehemiah noted intermarriage with women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. Half of their children couldn't even speak Hebrew, making it impossible for them to hear and understand the teachings of the Bible.

Nehemiah's response may seem harsh. He confronted the sinful husbands, cursed them, beat some, and pulled out their hair. I agree, but it is light compared to God's crushing judgment when he exercises his holy wrath against people who reject him and rebel against his law.

See Hebrews 10:26-27, 29 and Matthew 25:41

Marriage is meant to draw us nearer to Christ, and according to Ephesians 5, our holy unions are to illustrate the gospel of Christ. Therefore, the Christian church must protect the biblical institution, uphold its definition, conserve its value, and bear its witness.

- We must not be unequally yoked in our marriages. (2 Corinthians 6:14)
- We must not agree with unbiblical divorces. (Genesis 2, Matthew 19, and Malachi 2:16)
- We must not allow unholy fornication. (1 Corinthians 6:9-20)

Fornication (porneia) is the term the Bible uses for sexual misconduct or sexual activity occurring outside the boundary of marriage. Throughout the scripture, the sins of idolatry and apostasy are spoken of in terms of fornication.

Fornication doesn't belong with our new nature and identity in Christ Jesus. "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God. You are not your own" (6:19).

Churches will always need courageous and bold leaders to face wrongs head-on.

Leaders must understand the significance and severity of sin, not allowing it to linger.

Not only must sin be pointed out, we must correct it and seek ways to guard against it.

Nehemiah is the last historical record until the coming of John the Baptist. The book leaves us longing for someone greater than him to bring lasting transformation. It leaves us longing for Jesus, the Messiah.



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Sunday, May 12, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



CONNECT *people to Christ and His church*

KIDSTUF COLOR FUN RUN
WEDNESDAY
MAY 22 6:30 PM
 MB Back Parking Lot



KIDS, WEAR A WHITE T-SHIRT & BE PREPARED TO GET BLASTED WITH COLOR!

HOMEMADE Ice Cream FELLOWSHIP



MAY 29 WEDNESDAY
6:30 PM IN THE GYM

Bring your favorite Homemade Ice Cream

THE SAME GOD
 MEADOWBROOK KIDQUEST 2024
 MALACHI 3:6

JUNE 3-6
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

for Kids who've completed Kindergarten-5th grade

Register at MBCHURCH.COM or on the MB App

KidQuest T-Shirt sales begin WEDNESDAY, MAY 15
 Cost: \$10.00

MeadowBrook Kids ART CAMP



JUNE 17-19
9 AM - 12:30 PM

COST: \$30

For kids who've completed K5-5th Grade

REGISTER AT MBCHURCH.COM

GROW *them as disciples and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
 8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
 9:00 am - Worship - Worship Center
 9:00 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
 10:30 am - Life Group

MONDAY, MAY 13
 10:00 am - 55+ Uptown Birmingham & Birmingham Botanical Gardens Trip

TUESDAY, MAY 14
 9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall
 6:30 pm - Weekday Graduation - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15
 5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
(Fried Chicken, Seasoned Potatoes, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Biscuit & Dessert; Kids: Same with Cookies)
 6:30 pm - Adult Bible Study on Job, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MAY 16
 10:00 am - Threads of Love Knit/Crochet - Conference Center

life group
Life together for the Kingdom of God

SUNDAYS at 10:30 AM

Life Group is the best way to connect to the ministry and community at MeadowBrook.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a brochure at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE gift!**


2024 BIBLE READING

May 12 - 1 Corinth 7:25-40	May 16 - 1 Corinth 10:1-22
May 13 - 1 Corinth 8:1-13	May 17 - 1 Corinth 10:23-11:1
May 14 - 1 Corinth 9:1-18	May 18 - 1 Corinth 11:2-16
May 15 - 1 Corinth 9:19-27	

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central

SERVE *through missions, ministry and worship*

GRIEF SHARE LOSS OF A SPOUSE



Tuesday, May 21
10 AM - 12 PM

Location: Conference Center

Losing a spouse is hard. You don't have to face this season alone. You can walk through this process with other believers who have dealt with the same struggles and will provide support as you heal.

Led by Deb & Jim Rhodes and Bob Sanford

FOUNDATIONS for Marriage



Sundays at 10:30 AM in Room 302

Taught by Al & Barbara Anne Garrett and Joe & Susan Gilchrist

Foundations for Marriage is a great opportunity for young couples to build lasting marriages as they learn biblical principles essential for a thriving relationship. If you would like more info for yourself or a young couple in your life, email info@mbchurch.com.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Martha Vaughn, Aiden Beck

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruet, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Lloyd Matthews, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Danny Maddox, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore, Tom Bentley, Mallory Dunn Bramlett, Kathy Thompson, Susan Mize, Derell Reaves, Tony Fleming, Bennett Tucker, Cheryl Smith, Jimmy Thompson

- Sharon Draper & family in the loss of her sister, Elsie Crow
- Tim Davis - recovering from pacemaker implant on 5/10