

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

Jeremy Bell
Nehemiah 13
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I. The deceptive power of sin

Desecrating God's House (verses 4-9)

“We will not neglect the house of God.” -- Nehemiah 10:39

Forsaking giving (verses 10-14)

“We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of every tree, year by year, to the house of the Lord” -- Nehemiah 10:35

Profaning the Sabbath (verses 15-18)

“And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or a holy day.” -- Nehemiah 10:31

Marrying Unbelievers (verses 23-27)

“We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.” -- Neh. 10:30

A. We must beware of the creep of sin

“For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want (which is to please God), but I do the very thing I hate...I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep doing.” -- Romans 7:15,19

B. We don't sin out of obligation but out of unbelief

II. The Greatness of His Steadfast Love

“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity.” -- Psalm 32:1-2

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” – Romans 8:1

“He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities” – Psalm 103:10

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured – there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin! Grace Greater Than All Our Sin -- Julia H. Johnson, 1911

Questions for Discussion/Application:

- Consider taking time to read chapter 13 out loud. What observations/insights do you have from reading the text?
- Jeremy talked about how the deceitfulness of sin was the primary reason the people drifted, over time, into the sins we read about in chapter 13. Consider reading, Romans 7:15:24. What do these verses teach us about the power of the flesh/remaining sin?
- How does remaining sin deceive us? What does it look like practically for a believer to be on guard against, the deceitfulness of sin?
- Jeremy took time at the end of his message to draw our attention to the steadfast love of the Lord as revealed in the gospel. Consider reading the scriptures in the Recap above under point #2 "The Greatness of His Steadfast Love." How do those scriptures land on you and affect your heart? How can remembering the gospel help us in the battle against the flesh/remaining sin?
- Consider taking time to pray, asking God to help us, in dependence upon the Holy Spirit and relying on the gospel, to faithfully fight the fight of faith against remaining sin in our lives.