

Let us Bow Before our Maker

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Nehemiah 9.

B. This follows the celebration of the rebuilding of the gates.

C. The current scene is a different note, however. It is one of repenting and confession.

1. They confess their sin and their fathers' sins.

2. We sometimes forget that we inherit something from the previous generation.

II. The cause of the confession: they were enslaved in the land by foreigners on account of their sins.

A. We are slaves in America despite all the things we have.

B. The Israelites did not blame others—instead they spent three hours in confession and three hours in praise.

C. How to praise God.

1. Start with the life that He gave you.

2. Praise Him for His call and His faithfulness towards His promise.

3. Praise God for His providential care—both physically and spiritually.

4. Praise Him for His mercy.

a. We tend to focus on what we do not have.

b. The media tells us that we deserve this.

c. When we see the whole picture as it really is, we find that we deserve death.

d. However, God is merciful and does not give us death.

5. Thank God for your victories and His goodness in that.

D. How to confess to God.

1. Confess your rebellion.

2. Confess specific areas of disobedience from the past generation.

3. Confess specific areas of disobedience from the present generation.

E. The only release from the slavery we have to our desires is to confess.

Application questions:

1. What areas have you neglected to give God praise for in your life?

2. Are there areas of sin that you have failed to confess to God?

3. Spend some time in prayer and confession following the pattern of Nehemiah. Write some words reflecting upon your experience afterward.
