

The New Resolve

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Nehemiah 10.

B. Nehemiah teaches us how to rebuild the walls of our lives.

II. A commitment to a new lifestyle.

A. Four groups sign the agreement.

B. The common people signed the agreement to preserve their lifestyle for the glory of God.

C. There are times when it is right to pledge oneself to a cause one feels is good. There comes a time when a person must face change squarely.

D. Their commitments.

1. They promised to marry with an equal yoke.

a. The people were not to intermarry because it would introduce ideas that would destroy Israel.

b. This is what happened under Solomon.

c. People should marry others with the same faith because faith is the basis of life.

2. They promised to keep the Sabbath.

a. We need rest in the midst of our activities.

b. The Sabbath is a picture for us spiritually of resting in God at work as well as one's own work. (Hebrews 4:10)

3. They promised to provide for the Temple.

a. God promises to supply His people's needs. (Leviticus 25)

b. God supplies our needs if we are careful to make sure the work is done in His way.

4. They promised to give the first fruits to God.

a. This indicates their recognition for their need for offerings and sacrifices.

b. The Israelites were never allowed to forget the cost of redemption.

c. It took all that God had that we might be restored to Him.

d. They are recognizing the rights of God in their lives.

e. We are not our own--we have been bought with a price.

5. They promised to tithe to the Temple.

a. The tithe is no longer a requirement in the New Testament.

b. The New Testament teaches that a proportion of one's wealth is to be given. (I Corinthians 16, II Corinthians 8-9)

c. Giving is a matter of right motive--it is to be given as a matter of gratitude to God.

6. They promised to attend faithfully the house of God.

a. The people are the house of God, not the building.

b. We need this ministry of the saints.

E. These commitments take discipline.

F. The people ultimately failed because they relied on their own will power.

1. It is right to vow.

2. However, the commitment can only be accomplished through Christ.

Application questions:

1. Under what circumstances is a commitment to God right? When can a commitment be wrong?

2. Which of the commitments made by the Israelites stands out to you? What strikes you?

3. Do you know of anyone who has made a special commitment to God? How do you think fulfilling that commitment challenges his or her spiritual growth?
