

## 1 Thessalonians: Standing on the Promises

Nehemiah 8:1-8 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-28

"It pleased the Lord at different times and in various ways to reveal Himself and to declare that this revelation contains His will for His church. Afterwards it pleased God to put this entire revelation into writing so that the truth might be better preserved **and transmitted** and that the church, confronted with the corruption of the flesh and the evil purposes of Satan and the world, might be more securely established and comforted."

("Westminster Confession of Faith," Chapter One, 1646)

### Standing at Attention

On the Sunday morning my wife, René and I were on the \_\_\_\_\_ Isle of Skye, we worshiped in a very old \_\_\_\_\_ church. After welcoming us, the pastor said, "We \_\_\_\_\_ when we sing and \_\_\_\_\_ when the Bible is read." The congregation also \_\_\_\_\_ at the beginning of the service as the pastor was led into the Sanctuary by an elder called a \_\_\_\_\_, who was carrying the pulpit \_\_\_\_\_.

"The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that's the book for me.

I \_\_\_\_\_ alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E!"

"\_\_\_\_\_ ... on the promises of God my Savior;  
\_\_\_\_\_ ..., I'm \_\_\_\_\_ on the promises of God."

### The Day God's People Stood for Six Hours

In the year 444 B. C., 13 years after a priest named \_\_\_\_\_ had led a group of Jewish captives out of Babylon and back to \_\_\_\_\_, there was very little respect for the \_\_\_\_\_ or God.

The former exiles had found the holy city in \_\_\_\_\_. A Jewish leader named \_\_\_\_\_ managed to motivate them to rebuild the city and the \_\_\_\_\_ surrounding it. Yet the physical restoration was not enough; they needed a \_\_\_\_\_ restoration, as well.

God's people were longing for God's \_\_\_\_\_ of the world, for God's \_\_\_\_\_, for God's \_\_\_\_\_ ... for God's \_\_\_\_\_.

But in Ezra's day, as in ancient Scotland, copies of the \_\_\_\_\_ were rare. Only a select few religious leaders had access to \_\_\_\_\_ Word.

In order to satisfy their spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, the citizens of Jerusalem went to Ezra, for he was a \_\_\_\_\_, who made copies of the Torah.

"All the men and \_\_\_\_\_ assembled in the square before the Water Gate and \_\_\_\_\_ Ezra to bring out the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Law of Moses." On New \_\_\_\_\_ Day, he \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ from daybreak till noon. "All the people \_\_\_\_\_ attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra \_\_\_\_\_ on a high \_\_\_\_\_ platform. As he \_\_\_\_\_ the book, the people all \_\_\_\_\_ up. The Levites \_\_\_\_\_ the people in the Law while they were \_\_\_\_\_ there, making it \_\_\_\_\_ and giving the \_\_\_\_\_ so they could \_\_\_\_\_ what was being read" (Nehemiah 8:1-8).

What a \_\_\_\_\_ account! On Sunday mornings, I read \_\_\_\_\_ usually brief Scripture lessons to you while you are \_\_\_\_\_ in a pew, but on New Year's Day in 444 B. C., Ezra read the first \_\_\_\_\_ books of the Bible to all the people in Jerusalem while they were \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ hours. Then the Levites \_\_\_\_\_ them what it all meant. And both the leaders and the congregation \_\_\_\_\_ it!

### Paul's Charge Re. His Letter to the Thessalonian Christians

At the \_\_\_\_\_ of his first letter to the Christians in Thessalonica, Paul instructed the elders: "I \_\_\_\_\_ you before the \_\_\_\_\_ to have this letter \_\_\_\_\_ to all the brothers" (1 Thessalonians 5:27). This is the \_\_\_\_\_ time in the New Testament that Paul used such \_\_\_\_\_ language. He \_\_\_\_\_ that every one \_\_\_\_\_ all he had written.

Chapter 1 -

Chapter 2 -

Chapter 3 -

Chapter 4 -

Chapter 5 -

### Takeaway

With at least our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, I hope we are "\_\_\_\_\_ on the Promises of God" as do Presbyterians in \_\_\_\_\_.

Would that we would have the attention \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to longer portions of the \_\_\_\_\_!

God doesn't want us to miss out on \_\_\_\_\_ of His Word.

"I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to \_\_\_\_\_  
Upheld by My \_\_\_\_\_, omnipotent hand."



Rev. Dr. Tim Foster ❖ November 26, 2023