

## DEALING DECISIVELY WITH SIN ~ Ezra 9:1-10:44

→ Scripture reading Ezra 9:4-15

### TREMBLING AT GOD'S WORD ~ Ezra 9:1-4

[9:2]...And the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness." [3] When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. [4] Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice.

### APPLICATION

**Psalms 119:9-10** (NIV) How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. [10] I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.

#### How can I be Pure in my Walk with God?

- Obeying God's Word
- Seeking after God with ALL my heart
- Asking for God's Help

**Psalms 119:14-16** (NIV) I REJOICE in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. [15] I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. [16] I DELIGHT in your decrees; I will NOT NEGLECT your word.

#### Trembling at God's Word...

- Rejoice in Obedience
- Reflect on God's Word
- Delight in God's Word
- Never NEGLECT God's Word

### BLATANT DISOBEDIENCE ~ Ezra 9:5-15

[9:7] Because of our sins, we and our kings and our priests have been subjected to the sword and captivity, to pillage and humiliation at the hand of foreign kings, as it is today. [8] "But now, for a brief moment, the LORD our God has been gracious in leaving us a remnant and giving us a firm place in his sanctuary, and so our God gives light to our eyes and a little relief in our bondage. ...[11] you gave through your servants the prophets when you said: 'The land you are entering to possess is a land polluted by the corruption of its peoples. By their detestable practices they have filled it with their impurity from one end to the other...

### GRACE AND HOPE WITH GOD ~ Ezra 10:1-8

[10:1] While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites--men, women and children--gathered around him. They too wept bitterly.

## COURTS ESTABLISHED ~ Ezra 10:9-17

[10:9] Within the three days, all the men of Judah and Benjamin had gathered in Jerusalem. And on the twentieth day of the ninth month, all the people were sitting in the square before the house of God, greatly distressed by the occasion and because of the rain.

### Ezra's Message

- you have been UNFAITHFUL vs. 10
- you have ADDED to Israel's Guilt vs. 10
- make CONFESSION to God vs. 11
- DO God's WILL vs. 11
- SEPARATE yourselves vs. 11

## GUILTY AS CHARGED ~ Ezra 10:18-44

[10:18] Among the descendants of the priests, the following had married foreign women:

## APPLICATION

### ➔ It was Not Racial - it was Religious

**Psalms 106:34-39** (NIV) They did not destroy the peoples as the LORD had commanded them, [35] but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. [36] They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them. [37] They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. [38] They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. [39] They defiled themselves by what they did; by their deeds they prostituted themselves.

### Remember that Ezra 9-10...

- is DESCRIPTIVE - telling us what happened
- not PRESCRIPTIVE - telling us what to do today

**2 Corinthians 6:14-15** (NIV) Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? [15] What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

## SO WHAT ??

**Colossians 3:2-3** (NIV) Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

**Colossians 3:5** (NLT) So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you.....