

MESSAGE NOTES**Fall Sermon series:***The Cry of the Soul of Nehemiah***Today's message:***Hearts turned away and toward the LORD***2019 Christmas Devotional - The Gospel is Better****Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus****This week: 13:23-31**

Nehemiah confronts the Israelites due to interracial marriage 13:23-25

Is this an ethno-centric message? No. It is a theocentric message!

"Don't you remember our history? 13:26-27

Solomon's history 1 Kings 11:1-8

Nehemiah confronts the priest 13:28-31

The God-centeredness of the Bible

Exodus 20:3, Isaiah 42:8, Exodus 34:10-14, Deuteronomy 4:21-24, Romans 3:9-12

How do we fix this?

The Christ-centeredness of the Gospel

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

In Christ Alone

*In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Nehemiah 13:23–31 ²³ Moreover, in those days I saw men of Judah who had married women from Ashdod, Ammon and Moab. ²⁴ Half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod or the language of one of the other peoples, and did not know how to speak the language of Judah. ²⁵ I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves. ²⁶ Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon king of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women. ²⁷ Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?" ²⁸ One of the sons of Joiada son of Eliashib the high priest was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite. And I drove him away from me. ²⁹ Remember them, my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites. ³⁰ So I purified the priests and the Levites of everything foreign, and assigned them duties, each to his own task. ³¹ I also made provision for contributions of wood at designated times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me with favor, my God.

2 Corinthians 5:20–21 ²⁰ We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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