

Notice his intended audience was “*men and women*” (not children) and those who could “*hear with understanding*” (not those who could just hear). Indeed, God calls upon us to be “*understanding what the will of the Lord is*” (Eph. 5:17), but children who cannot yet comprehend God’s Will are not subject to it, for they possess “*no knowledge between good and evil*” (Dte. 1:39).

**4) About the need for being good listeners.** Nehemiah chronicles “*the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law*” (Neh. 8:3). When the Bible is taught, we must be listening well. Do we listen well enough to discern between those things which are true and those things which are false (Acts 17:11)? Remember, it was our Lord who said, “*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear*” (Matt. 11:15).

**5) About the need for respecting God’s Word.** What occurred when Ezra began to read from God’s Book? The people “*stood up*” (Neh. 8:6)! Why? Out of deep respect for the Words of God! We must revere the Word of God so much, we elevate it above all others. David penned, “*I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil*” (Psa. 119:162). He also iterated, “*My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly*” (Psa. 119:167). I pray we can say and think the same.

**6) About humility.** Near the conclusion of the reading of God’s Word, “*the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground*” (Neh. 8:6). We, too, must humble ourselves to the point we are willing to say “So be it” to God’s Word, and to do what It says.

This great passage concludes by saying, “*So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading*” (Neh. 8:8). The same can and should be happening with us. The question is, is it?

**FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST ♦ Vincennes, Indiana**  
Meeting at Holiday Inn Express in Vincennes, Indiana  
[www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com](http://www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com)

## ***THE VINCENNES VOICE***

*“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)*

A teaching bulletin produced and provided by  
**FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

### ***“UPON A PULPIT OF WOOD”*** by Larry R. Ping II

Nehemiah writes about “*a pulpit of wood*” in Nehemiah 8:4. There are many lessons we can learn from this pulpit. Consider, from a pulpit of wood we learn...

**1) About unity.** The Bible records, “*And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate*” (Neh. 8:1). There were obviously scores of folks in the crowd, but they were described as “*one man.*” This pulpit, and the actions taken upon it, brought the people together. And this is how God expects His people to be. Paul reminded, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*” (I Cor. 1:10).

**2) About our sole need for God’s Word.** Notice, the people asked, “*bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel*” (Neh. 8:1). They did not ask for the thoughts and opinions of Ezra the scribe, for “*your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God*” (I Cor. 2:5). Neither did they solicit the prevailing religious thoughts of the day, for “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable*” (II Tim. 3:16).

**3) About the need to understand God’s Word.** Ezra, preparing to read God’s Word, came “*before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding*” (Neh. 8:2).

*--- continued on back ---*

**VOLUME 4**

**ISSUE 8**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023**

## **BIBLE READING QUESTIONS**

The Bible reading for Feb. 19-Feb. 25 spans Neh. 7:39-Neh. 12:7.

Answer the following questions based upon your reading.

- 1) What happened to those who could not be found numbered among the priests (Neh. 7:64)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) “So they \_\_\_\_\_ in the book in the law of God \_\_\_\_\_, and gave the \_\_\_\_\_, and caused them to \_\_\_\_\_ the reading” (Neh. 8:8).
- 3) What is Israel reminded of in Nehemiah 9:12? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4) “Nevertheless for thy \_\_\_\_\_ mercies' sake thou didst not utterly consume them, nor \_\_\_\_\_ them; for thou art a \_\_\_\_\_ and merciful God” (Neh. 9:31).
- 5) What promise did the people make in Nehemiah 10:30?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) How many Levites were in the holy city (Neh. 11:18)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7) “For it was the king's commandment concerning \_\_\_\_\_, that a certain \_\_\_\_\_ should be for the \_\_\_\_\_, due for every \_\_\_\_\_” (Neh. 11:23).

## **READING SCHEDULE AND MEMORY VERSES FOR THE DAYS OF FEB. 19-FEB. 25, 2023.**

**February 19, 2023:** Neh. 7:39-Neh. 7:63

**February 20, 2023:** Neh. 7:64-Neh. 8:12

**February 21, 2023:** Neh. 8:13-Neh. 9:22

**February 22, 2023:** Neh. 9:23-Neh. 10:9

**February 23, 2023:** Neh. 10:10-Neh. 10:27

**February 24, 2023:** Neh. 10:28-Neh. 11:19

**February 25, 2023:** Neh. 11:20-Neh. 12:7

*“So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work” (Neh. 4:6).*

*“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person” (Col. 4:6).*

### **FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Meeting at Holiday Inn Express  
2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 am  
Sunday Worship Services - 11:00 am & 3:00 pm  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 pm

Website: [www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com](http://www.firstcitychurchofchrist.com)