

Ezra 9:4-10 (NIV)

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.

⁵ Then, at the evening sacrifice, I rose from my self-abasement, with my tunic and cloak torn, and fell on my knees with my hands spread out to the LORD my God

⁶ and prayed: “O my God, I am too ashamed and disgraced to lift up my face to You my God, because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heavens.

⁷ From the days of our forefathers until now,
our guilt has been great. 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.

⁹ Though we are slaves, our God has not deserted us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.

Dealing **DECISIVELY** with Sin

Ezra 9:1-10:44

⁴ Then everyone who
TREMbled
at the **Words of the God...**

Psalm 119:9–11 (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. ¹¹ I have **hidden Your Word** in
my heart that I might **NOT sin against You.**

How can I be Pure in my Walk with God?

- **OBEY** God's Word
- **SEEK** God with ALL my Heart
- **ASK** God for help
- **HIDE** His Word in my heart

Psalm 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 means we...

- **REJOICE** in Obedience
- **REFLECT** on God's Word
- **DELIGHT** in God's Word
- Never **NEGLECT** God's Word

Within the surrounding culture:
...Divorce appears to have been common
and uncomplicated, with economic
implications being of greatest concern. IVP

→ It was not about **RACE-**

it was about **RELIGION**

→ It was not about **Skin COLOR-**
it was about **SANCTIFICATION**

→ It was not about **CULTURE-**
it was about truly **Believing** and
Obeying God

Psalm 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**?

Do not form **any relationship**, whether **temporary** or **permanent**, with unbelievers that would **lead to a compromise of Christian standards** or jeopardize consistency of Christian witness. Expositors

Hosea 6:6 (NET)

For I **Delight** in **faithfulness**, not simply in
sacrifice; I **Delight** in **acknowledging** God,
not simply in **whole burnt offerings**.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

He has showed you, O man, what is **GOOD**. And what does **the LORD** Require of you? To **act Justly** and to **love Mercy** and to **walk Humbly** with your God.