**I’M LOOKING FOR A CHURCH**

**Nehemiah 8:1-6, 8**

**1**[**And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that *was* before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-1/)

**2**[**And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-2/)

**3**[**And he read therein before the street that *was* before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people *were attentive* unto the book of the law.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-3/)

**4**[**And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose . . .**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-4/)

**5**[**And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-5/)

**6**[**And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all 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.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-6/)

**8**[**So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-8/)

**INTRO: I’m Looking for a Church Like That!**

**\*\*If you were to take a survey and ask people what qualities they look for in a church and what expectations they have of a church, the differences in opinion would absolutely shock you and me!**

**\*\*Most people are not looking for Ezra’s kind of church.**

**1. I see People Assembling**

**Nehemiah 8:1a And all the people gathered themselves together as one man**

**\*\*As one man with one mind and with one motive.**

**2. I see People Asking**

**Nehemiah 8:1b and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.**

**\*\*They asked the preacher to preach! Imagine that! Most churches nowadays are looking for ways to get away from the preaching of the Word of God.**

**3. I see People Attentive**

**Nehemiah 8:3b and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.**

**\*\*These people cared about what the Word of God had to say unto their hearts, so they paid attention to the preaching of God’s Word.**

**4. I see People Appreciative**

**Nehemiah 8:5 5**[**And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up:**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-5/)

**\*\*These people were so appreciative of God’s Word and God’s man, that they showed reverence and respect when the Word of God was read.**

**5. I see People Amening**

**Nehemiah 8:6a 6**[**And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen,**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-6/)

**6. I see People Adoring**

**Nehemiah 8:6b 6**[**. . . with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with *their* faces to the ground.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-6/)

**7. I see People Accepting**

**Nehemiah 8:8 8**[**So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Nehemiah-8-8/)

**\*\*So often we hear people and even preachers say from time to time, “I’m looking for a church,” but they are NOT looking for a church like that.**

**\*\*Well, I’m looking for a church like that, and I sure hope you’re looking for a church like that!**

**\*\*We have a good church here because there have been looking those in the past who were looking for a church like we have today.**

**\*\*If we ever stop looking for a church like Ezra had and a church like we have now, we will stop having a church like that!**

**\*\*So let me tell you what kind of church I’m looking for!**

**BODY – I’M LOOKING FOR A CHURCH**

**I. I’m Looking for a Church that is Respected**

 **A. Respected because it has a Testimony**

**\*\*I’m Looking for a Church where people will say . . .**

 **1. That’s a Preaching Church**

**I Corinthians 1:18 18**[**For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-1-18/)

**\*\*If you don’t like preaching, you are in the wrong church!**

 **2. That’s a Praying Church**

 **\*\*May our church testimony be that we pray for the Lord’s people and the Lost people alike.**

 **3. That’s a Praising Church**

**\*\*May it be said, those folks sing and shout the Lord’s praises!**

 **4. That’s a Powerful Church**

**\*\*Our church is only powerful if it has a Holy Ghost Power and a Heavenly God Power moving in it.**

**\*\*Some churches have the testimony of being a problem church! Ain’t nobody wanting that or got time for that!**

 **B. Respected because it has a Torch**

**\*\*The torch is the Word of God!**

 **1. Our Torch is to be a Beacon**

 **2. Our Torch is to be a Blessing**

 **a. We are Disciplined by the Torch**

 **b. We are Disciples by the Torch**

 **C. Respected because it has a Trust**

**\*\*People will have respect or no respect for this church based upon a) Your Doings and b) Your Dealings.**

**Illustration: That fellow there uses bad language all the time. What kind of church does he belong to? Or – I don’t care what kind of church he goes to. If his mouth is moving he’s lying or trying to scam you.**

 **D. Respected because it has a Touch**

 **1. May Our Church Have A Special Touch Of God**

 **2. May Our Church Have A Spiritual Touch Of God**

**\*\*Oh how I am looking for a church that has a special and spiritual touch of God on it! That’s what I want us to have here!**

**II. I’m Looking for a Church that is Right**

 **A. The Church Doctrine Must Be Right**

**\*\*That means we . . .**

 **1. Believe the Book**

**II Timothy 3:16 16**[**All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Timothy-3-16/)

 **2. Believe the Blood**

**Romans 5:9 9**[**Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-5-9/)

 **B. The Church Direction Must Be Right**

 **1. The Emphasis must be put on Godly Preaching!**

 **2. The Emphasis must be put on God’s Power!**

**\*\*Some emphasize the social, the singings, the specials, or the schemes, or even the shout but I’m looking for our church to emphasize the Savior and the Scripture!**

 **C. The Church Desires Must Be Right**

 **1. Our Desire Should Be To Worship**

**I Chronicles 16:29 29**[**Give unto the LORD the glory *due* unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Chronicles-16-29/)

 **2. Our Desire Should Be To Work**

**John 9:4 4**[**I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-9-4/)

 **a. Work with Humbleness**

 **b. Work with Holiness**

**III. I’m Looking for a Church that is Real**

**II Timothy 3:5 says that some churches are like this: 5**[**Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/2-Timothy-3-5/)

**\*\*I refuse to go to a church that is not real with a real power of God on it!**

 **A. The Preachers need to be Real**

**\*\*We need preachers who are real about His Praises and**

**His Power!**

**\*\*Some are only concerned about a Position, a Parsonage, a Paycheck, or a Pension!**

 **B. The People need to be Real**

 **1. Our Worship Must Be Real**

 **a. Real Worship should exist in our Hearts**

 **b. Real Worship should exist in our Homes**

 **2. Our Witness Must Be Real**

 **a. Our Public Witness must be Real**

 **b. Our Private Witness must be Real**

 **C. The Power needs to be Real**

 **1. Real Power changes Destinies**

 **2. Real Power changes Desires**

 **D. The Prayers need to be Real**

 **1. Real Prayer Touches the Lord**

 **2. Real Prayer Touches the Lost**

 **E. The Professions need to be Real**

**\*\*Real Professions means you are really Convicted, really Converted, and really Changed!**

 **F. The Praises need to be Real**

**Psalms 150:6 6**[**Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-150-6/)

**IV. I’m Looking for a Church that is Ready**

 **A. Ready for Revival**

**Psalms 85:6 6**[**Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Psalms-85-6/)

**\*\*We need to pray: Lord revive our Devotion, our Dedication, and our Determination to live for you!**

 **B. Ready for Reaping**

**John 4:35-37** [**behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-4-35/)

**36**[**And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-4-36/)

**37**[**And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/John-4-37/)

**\*\*If we do any reaping, we must first do some sowing!**

 **1. Sow some Compassion.**

**\*\*On the Drunks, on the Druggies, on the Dirty, on the Different, and on the Dreadful.**

 **2. Sow some Convictions**

**\*\*We can reap the right kind of church if we will sow some convictions about our Steps, our Songs, and our Smock (suits and skirts).**

 **C. Ready for Rapture**

**Luke 12:40 40**[**Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Luke-12-40/)

**\*\*I’m looking for a church that is . . .**

 **1. Ready for His Return**

 **2. Ready for His Reunion**

**\*\*Are you a church that is ready? I sure am!**

**CLOSE**

**1. What kind of church do you belong to today?**

**2. What kind of church are you looking for today?**

**3. Not many are looking for the kind of church that assembled before Ezra in Nehemiah.**

**4. Not many are looking for the kind of church that I have described today.**

**5. You that are members of this church . . . . . . Are you making this church the kind of church I’m looking for?**

**6. Are you making this church the kind of church you’re looking for?**

**7. If not, we need to repent and make this church a church that is Respectable, a church that is Right, a church that is Real, and a church that is Ready!**

**8. With all due respect, if you don’t want this kind of church that I’ve outlined here, then you need to seek God or seek another church!**