**A GOOD MAN’S VIEW OF SIN**

**Ezra 9:5 – 7**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Throughout time, men have looked at SIN differently.

A. Some are remorseful of their transgressions, while others make light of their deeds.

B. Some have shed many a tear, while others simply laugh and brag about their conquests.

2. This lesson comes from the book of Ezra and deals with "A Good Man’s View of Sin".

A. Let’s look at how Ezra viewed the SINS of the nation of Israel.

1. Perhaps in doing so, [we] will better see how [we] as Christians should view [our] individual SINS, along with the SINS of [our] nation.

3. [We] have gotten to the point (as a people and a nation), very little seems to bother us.

A. This attitude can***NOT*** continue without affecting [our] judgment (moral/ethical issues).

4. Now, before advancing further, let’s set the stage from the view of Ezra.

A. In the interval between Zerubbabel's rule and the coming of Ezra from Babylon, the Jews seem to have been left without any strong, controlling authority.

1. They seem to do whatever pleases in matters outside the range of civil/criminal law.

B. The Mosiacal law expressly forbade intermarriage between God’s People and idolatrous nations whose land they inherited (Deu 7:3); they had taken to themselves wives from the Ammonites, Moabites, Amorites, Egyptians and Canaanites (Ezra 9:1)

 A. Even sons/nephews of the high priest, Jeshua were guilty of this (Ezra 10:18).

C. Resulting in a great danger, the purity of religion preserving the seed-line (Ezra 9:2).

**BODY;**

**1. AWAKENED A SPIRIT OF EARNEST PRAYER IN HIS LIFE (Ezra 9:5)**

A. We see the great humility of Ezra and he fell upon his knees in deepest self-abasement.

1. He did not stand erect like the Pharisee in the Temple, but became more like the Publican who smote his breast in shame (Lk 18:10 – 13).

B. The solemnity of the circumstances, awakened an earnestness of prayer within Ezra.

1. Undoubtedly, he realized a lifeless prayer would avail nothing (Jas 5:16).

2. His prayer took upon it the seriousness that was needed (Psa 95:6; Ac 21:5).

D. In looking at this prayer, [we] see it was directed to the Lord (Ezra 9:6a).

1. The vanity of human help realizing only the Lord could avert their consequences.

E. In our lives, the same awareness of SIN must bring on the same attitude of earnest prayer.

1. How long ago were bitter tears shed over the sinful condition of ourselves and others?

2. When was the last time we cried, "Lord, be merciful to me a sinner" (Lk 18:13)?

**2. AWAKENED A SENSE OF SHAME (Ezra 9:6)**

A. Ezra was engulfed in shame over the sins of his people for several reasons.

1. Ezra was morally sensitive to sin. Purity is sensitive to evil.

2. Ezra understood the true nature of sin. He spoke of their iniquities and trespasses.

3. Ezra understood the magnitude of sin (v6b).

B. To the good man, SIN brings shame and sorrow for the deeds having been done.

 1. Ac 2:37; Rom 5:8; 1 Jn 1:8 – 10

C. Relating this to us, [we] face the question: do sins [we] commit bring shame to us?

1. Are we embarrassed by the transgressions that we commit against God?

2. Are we too busy telling the Lord what all we do for Him that we do not have enough time to realize what we are doing against Him?

**3. AWAKEN THE MEMORIES OF SORROW (Ezra 9:7)**

A. Ezra remembered because of their sin, kings and priests had gone into captivity or killed.

B. To the good man, the sight of sin simply calls up memories of sorrow, pain and loss.

 C. The person relishing one’s life of SIN, fails to realize as one sows, so shall one reap.

 1. Mt 13:38 – 42; Gal 6:7