

October 31, 2021 Ezra 6:19-22
“Those Who Had Separated Themselves”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Deuteronomy 14:2; “**2** For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”

I Peter 2:9, “**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for *God’s* own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

CONTEX, CONTEXT, CONTEXT, and the greatest of these is CONTEXT! People who are lost in their sins do not seek God. God is the author of salvation, not man. However, once a person believes he/she will seek the Lord just as the exiles in our passage today are recorded as doing. So, there is no contradiction in play here, the context makes all the difference.

V. 21, “to seek the Lord God

Romans 3:11, “There is no one who understands, There is no one who seeks out God;” **John 6:44** expresses the work of soteriology/salvation well, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

In the Psalms there are many passages that speak of the psalmists seeking the Lord. Proverbs is another book of the Bible that gives clear instruction for the believer as he/she seeks the Lord’s council.

God’s people sometimes get off track. That was true in days of old and it is still true today. Consider the way God works among His own. **II Chronicles 15:2-4**, Azariah the prophet warns Asa “**2** and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, “Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. **3** For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law. **4** But in their distress they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him.”

In this OT passage is found a beautiful word picture of restoration of God’s people to Himself. Another such passage is **II Chronicles 7:14**, check it out!

APPLICATION:

In our pericope today we saw how Israel was filled with joy and how they celebrated the restoration of the house of God. They dedicated the temple, they were careful to obey God’s instruction regarding the order for the service to God just as Moses had been moved by God to write down. The people had made a conscious decision to separate themselves from the impurity all around them. They sought the Lord God of Israel. Today we will be celebrating the Lord’s Supper. Take this time to reflect on all that God has done. Thank Him for salvation in Jesus, take time to reflect on your life. If you are made aware of sin in your life, please take time to confess and repent from that sin. If there are people you have sinned against first confess this sin to God, then go to them and ask for their forgiveness as well. Be reconciled to God, reconciled to others. Jesus said that when we partake of the Lord’s Supper to do this in remembrance of Him. Before taking part in this celebration be sure to pour out your heartfelt thanks for all the Lord has done.