

**Berean Christian Church**  
**Dr. Kerwin B. Lee, Senior Pastor**

**Bible Study**

February 13, 2018

**Desires That Are Pleasing to God**

**Nehemiah 8:1-9**

Psalms 37:4 reads, *"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."* (NIV). This verse reveals a promise that is made available to those who live a life pleasing to the Lord. The top priority for all believers should be to glorify their Master by way of their words and deeds. There is no way for one to be successful in gaining God's approval over their actions without an appetite for and application of His Word. This lesson is designed to examine an encounter in the life of the children of Israel to point out desires that are pleasing to God.

**Breakdown of Nehemiah Chapter 8**

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. The <u>Communication</u> | from the people | <b>Verse 1</b>      |
| 2. The <u>Proclamation</u>  | to the people   | <b>Verses 2-15</b>  |
| 3. The <u>Application</u>   | by the people   | <b>Verses 16-18</b> |

1. Desiring to be Attentive to the Bible is pleasing to God.  
**Verses 2, 3**  
*"So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. 3) He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law."* (NLT)
2. Desiring to be Receptive towards the Bible is pleasing to God.  
**Verses 5, 6**  
*"Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. 6) Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. (NLT)*
3. Desiring to be Instructive about the Bible is pleasing to God.  
**Verses 7, 8**  
*"The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah—then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places. 8) They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage."* (NLT)

(Over)

