the **TAKE HOME** 05.22.16

Today's Scripture Passage: Nehemiah 8:1-8 page 347-348 Pew Bible

1 all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel. 2 So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. 3 He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. 4 Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood… 5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. 6 Ezra praised the LORD , the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. 7 The Levites-…-instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. 8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

Our Fallen Condition: Our lives are full of activity but something's missing. We are prone to forget God and leave His word on the shelf.

The Big Idea of Today's Scripture: If we want spiritual renewal in our lives and church, we have to rediscover the Words of God.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion
- How often do you engage with God's Word?
- How can you make more room for God's Word in your life?
- What unrealistic expectations do you have of preachers?
- What could you do to listen more attentively to preaching?
- In what ways might you show greater respect for God's Word?
- Outside of public worship services, how could you demonstrate your desire to understand the Bible for yourself?

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