

22 April 2018: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

**Topic: A Study of Ezra: A True Revival**

Scripture text: Nehemiah 8:1-18

1. God's Word is central in any true spiritual revival. There was a true revival in Ezra's time as the Holy Spirit gave the people the desire and love for God's Word. They requested for the public preaching of God's Word during the Feast of the Trumpets on the first day of the seventh month (v.1-2). They paid close attention to the Word of God for a long period of 6 hours (v.3) because they had the highest view of the Law (v.4-6). Faithful preaching of God's Word is essential in any revival, where the hearers grow in spiritual knowledge. For God's Word to be understood (1) it must be in a language understood by the hearers, (2) it must be expounded clearly and (3) is only possible with the Spirit's help (v.7-8).
2. There is a true revival when lives are transformed and believers are sanctified by God's Word. True revival brings about godly sorrow and repentance (v.9b). In the midst of weeping, there is joy because God is merciful to forgive those who repent sincerely. We should have the joy of the Lord when we grow in spiritual maturity. Our joy must be in spiritual things (v.10)
3. There is a true revival when God's Word is obeyed. The leaders took the initiative to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, as commanded in the Law (v.14-16). They kept the feast in a solemn manner, while feeding on God's Word for 7 days (v.18). The magnitude of the outpouring of joy was unprecedented since the days of Joshua the son of Nun (v.17).