BANWELL
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Office Hours: Tue-Thu / 9am-2pm

Sunday, September 27, 2026



Our Mission

"Go and **MAKE DISCIPLES** of all nations, **BAPTIZING** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **TEACHING** them to observe all I have commanded you." - *Jesus Christ*

Message Notes

Walk Through The Word - Part 38
"Return from Exile" - Nehemiah 8:1-12

After generations of rebellion, judgment, and exile, God has brought His people back to Jerusalem, restored the temple, and enabled them to rebuild the city's walls. In Nehemiah 8, we witness a people gathered around God's Word, rediscovering His covenant faithfulness and learning to rejoice in His mercy—but their restoration also points forward to a greater redemption still to come.

1) God Faithfully Brings His People _____ - 8:1–2

- After their exile, God fulfills His promises to restore His people. Their return through the Persian Empire, under leaders such as Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah, reminds us that God's covenant _____ endures even through judgment and generations of waiting.

2) God's People Are Restored Through His _____ - 8:3–8

- The people gather to hear the Law explained, demonstrating that restoration involves more than rebuilding a city, it requires renewing their _____ with God through the truth of His Word.

3) God's Mercy Gives His People Reason to _____ - 8:9–12

- Though the people weep as they hear the Law, the leaders call them to recognize the holiness of the day and _____ the Lord's goodness, declaring that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

4) The Restoration Points Us to a Greater _____ - 8:1–12

- The return from exile and restoration of Jerusalem reveal God's covenant faithfulness, yet the people still await the _____ of His promises, including a faithful King, a new covenant, and complete redemption.

Going Deeper

1) What would it have meant for the people of Israel to return to Jerusalem after generations of exile? What emotions and challenges might they have experienced?

2) How does the transition from the Babylonian Empire to the Persian Empire demonstrate God's sovereignty over history and the nations?

3) What can we learn from the fact that God continued working through different leaders like Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah to restore His people?

4) Why do you think the people themselves asked Ezra to bring the Book of the Law? What does this reveal about their spiritual priorities?

5) Nehemiah 8:7–8 emphasizes that the people were helped to understand what was being read. Why is understanding God's Word essential to spiritual growth and faithful obedience?

6) What are some ways that a church or an individual can become focused on outward restoration, activity, or success while neglecting the importance of God's Word?

7) The people wept when they heard the Law, yet the leaders called them to rejoice. How can godly sorrow over sin and genuine joy in God's mercy exist together?

8) What does the statement *"the joy of the LORD is your strength"* (Nehemiah 8:10) mean in its immediate context, and how might this truth encourage us during seasons of difficulty?

9) As we conclude our Walk Through The Word journey in the Old Testament and prepare to enter the New Testament, what promises, themes, or needs in the Old Testament make you look forward to Jesus Christ and the complete redemption He brings?

Looking Ahead

News & Upcoming Events:

- **Lost & Found:** As we approach the Fall season we hope to clear out our lost and found. All unclaimed items will be donated this week.
- **Annual Pig Roast:** Saturday, October 3rd. This is a family event with games and fellowship starting at 4:00pm with dinner at 5:30pm. All proceeds go to support nutrition programs in four local schools. Today is your last chance to sign up in the lobby.
- **Ladies Night Out:** Monday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Swiss Chalet on Manning Road. Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and encouragement! Invite a friend who doesn't attend our church. Enjoy two interesting speakers, and everyone will go home with a special gift. Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Connecting With Others:

- **Small Groups:** For details, contact *pastorjames@banwellchurch.org*
- **Friendship Circle:** Wednesdays at 10:30 am
- **Age Unlimited (Age 55+):** Wed. Oct. 14 at 11 a.m. Gord Hambly will be sharing about important financial matters for seniors. Thanksgiving meal to follow. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.
- **Young Adults (Age 18-35):** Next on Saturday, October 10 at 9am. contact *pastorjames@banwellchurch.org* for more details.
- **Kingdom Kids (Grades 1-5):** Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 pm. For details contact *heather@banwellchurch.org*
- **Youth Group (Grades 6-12)**: Fridays at 6:30-8:30pm
- **Prayer Group:** Fridays at 10am in Library
- **Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, October 24 at 8:30 am. Sign up online or at Welcome Desk.

For more information on news and events,
check out our website, or contact the office.