



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, October 4, 2026

Ezra 9:1-15 – Repentance & Correction (Part 1)

Why did Ezra react so strongly to learning that the Israelites had intermarried with the neighboring peoples? Because the Israelites had done *exactly* what the Lord had repeatedly told them not to do.

Repentance requires...

- Knowing God's will
- Being accountable
- Remembering God's grace and appealing for his mercy

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by repenting to position ourselves for correction.

May you proclaim the gospel of God, and say, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." May you seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and may all these things (that your heavenly Father knows that you have need of) be added to you. (Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 6:33)

Discussion Questions:

- How did Ezra react when he learned that the Israelites, including the leaders, had intermarried with the people of the land? Based on Deuteronomy 7:1-6, 8:19-20, and 9:4-6, why did Ezra react the way that he did?
- How does the Lord identify himself in Exodus 34:6-7? How should we understand the Deuteronomy passages in light of Exodus 34:4-16?
- Why do we need to know God's Word and, therefore, his will to come to him in genuine repentance?
- In what ways can we be accountable for our individual and our corporate sins?
- How can we remember God's grace and appeal to his mercy when we come to him in repentance?
- How does repentance position us for correction? Why should we desire the Lord's correction?