

## CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH | NEHEMIAH 13:1-31

If the book of Nehemiah would have ended in chapter twelve, it would have ended on a wonderful note. The people praised and thanked God. They were filled with joy and supported His work. They were purified by and dedicated to God. But the reality is man is fallen and we are unable to keep God's Law. Israel renewed its covenant with God in chapter ten and by the time chapter thirteen comes along they are right back to their old ways. Nehemiah, who was back in Susa, would visit Jerusalem again. As Nehemiah returns, he once again will have to contend for the faith. He seeks to restore temple worship, warn the people to keep the Sabbath, and motivate them to honor God-ordained relationships. What principles can we learn from Nehemiah in this final chapter?

1. We must realize that we must contend to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ of God our priority (13:1-14).
2. We must recognize that we must honor God with our \_\_\_\_\_ (13:15-22).
3. We must make it a priority of honoring God through our \_\_\_\_\_. (13:23-31).