

Title: **Conviction**
Text: **Nehemiah 1:1-11**
Date: **January 8, 2023**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

The start of anything significant always begins - continues, and ends - with prayer. Prayer is a (spiritual) response and a reflection of our convictions.

Historical Context (v.1)

~445 BC, during the 20th year of the reign of Persian King Artaxerxes

Key dates in the history of Israel:

- 722 BC: Israel (northern kingdom) conquered by the Assyrians
- 586 BC: Judah (southern kingdom) conquered and Temple destroyed by the Babylonians
- 536 BC: Persian King Cyrus allows Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem and begin rebuilding the temple (539 BC Persians conquered the Babylonians)

1. A Conviction for God's P_____ (vv.2-4a)

2. A Conviction to P_____ (vv. 4b-11)

(cf. Matthew 6:9-13)

A Conviction of W_____ God Is (vv.5-6a)

A Conviction of C_____ & P_____ Sin (vv.6b-7)

A Conviction of God's P_____ & R_____ (vv.8-10)

A Conviction of God's P_____ & P_____ (v.11)



Reflection Questions

- When was the last time you cried or wept? What are the things which burden or weigh on your mind or heart? What might this reveal about the values or priorities of your heart? Have you ever mourned over the condition of the church/Christians and the world today?
- When you face difficulties, discouragement, and disappointment, who (or what) do you typically turn to -- why?
- Why is it easy for things/people to be, "out of sight, out of mind"? What are ways you can better keep God's purposes, God's people and God's mission in your mind (and your heart)?
- What aspects of Nehemiah's prayer are things you can incorporate into your prayers? What aspects of Nehemiah's prayer come easier for you to pray -- and which aspects of are more difficult? Why?
- What ways does Nehemiah's response (and prayer) serve as an example to you? How does it point you to Jesus and the Gospel?
- Even though our church's annual "Week of Prayer" concludes today, what are ways you, your family and our church can continue to be steadfast in prayer in this new year?

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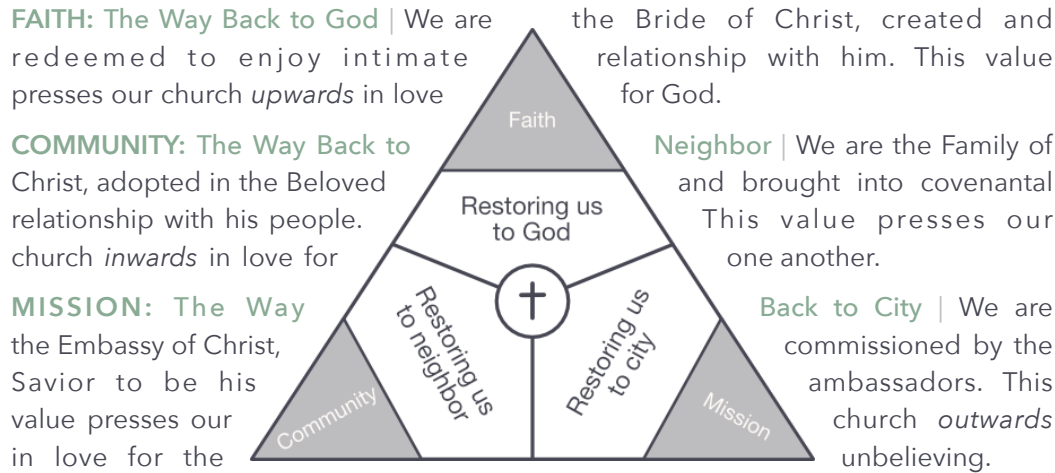


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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Mercy Hill Youth Hangout!

All Mercy Hill Youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited for a hangout after service today at 12:30pm! We'll have time for fellowship, prayer, and getting in God's Word. And we even plan to provide some pizza! We'll obviously be meeting inside today :) See ya there!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at youth@mercyhillchurch.org.

Introducing the New City Catechism!

The New City Catechism is an excellent resource and tool for both children and adults, believers and seekers, to aid in understanding and growing in the gospel and the Christian faith. Catechisms (from the Greek which means "to instruct or teach") in various forms have been used by Christians and churches throughout church history. We want to make use of one as well!

The New City Catechism is a series of 52 questions and answers (one for each week of the year) covering the foundations of the Christian faith with accompanying Bible verses (along with additional devotional material and children's songs)—all of which can be accessed via their mobile app, online or in print. The New City Catechism is also available in 18 other languages including Spanish, (simplified) Chinese, Arabic and Farsi!

In the coming year, we plan to integrate this resource into the life of our church. We'll try to highlight in one way or another, for both adults and kids, the Q&A for each week. We hope you find it enlightening and encouraging!

To learn more, scan the QR code below.

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.