

A Strange Crowd

By Mike Glenn

The crowd had gathered; men, women and children. That they were there for a known purpose was obvious. The feeling that ran through the crowd was one of anticipation and expectation. They were all looking to one spot in front of them. It was a new speaker's stand. Whatever was to happen would be centered at that stand. As time passed the people sat down on the ground, but they were not leaving and they were not impatient. What is the rest of this story?

As a group of men mounted the platform, there was a stir in the crowd. It was a stir of readiness, attentiveness. Whatever was about to happen, it would not bore these people. It was important to them. The record says that as the event began, the people all stood. They stayed standing in their place from early morning light until midday. They hung upon every word that was spoken - - or rather, read. These people had gathered together to hear the reading of the word of God. They stayed, stood, listened and considered until God's entire law had been read. The record of this event can be found in the book of God in Nehemiah 8:1-9. Not many, even in their day, would do what they did in trying to find God's will. What respect and desire they had to know what God said. Our Savior said, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness..." (Matthew 5:6)

One of the most commonly found books in the homes of Americans is the Bible. This is good. May this Word of God spread even more until it is in every home in America. But being in the home is not the same as having it in the mind and heart. Many Bibles collect dust in some out of the way place. They are seldom opened and read. Yet, according to Romans 10:17 and James 1:21, faith which saves us is the result of reading and understanding the word of God. Friend, if you really want to be saved, then you really need to hear what God says. Do it today!