

NEHEMIAH

**LEARNING TO
WORK
AND
WORSHIP
TOGETHER**



MINISTER MINISTRY

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These notes are those used in my pastoral ministry as I taught the contents of this particular book. They were written on a busy pastor's schedule and help was drawn from a number of different sources. They are intended to help and encourage people as they dig deeper into the word of God.

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II Tim 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
Habakkuk 2:2 And the lord answered me, and said, Write the Vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

Our Mission: To get everyone possible, using every means possible
"To Know and to Show Christ"



[Nehemiah-Learning to Work and Worship Together]
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NEHEMIAH

Learning to Work and Worship Together

Table of Contents:

Page 1-2	Nehemiah, The Patriot	Intro
Page 3-4	The Burden for the Work	Neh 1:-
Page 5-6	Fasting	Neh 1:4
Page 7-8	Broken Walls	Neh 1:3
Page 9	The Changes Caused by Commitment	Neh 2:-
Page 10-12	Building the Walls	Neh 3:-
Page 13-14	Outward Force	Neh 4:-
Page 15-16	Money and People Problems	Neh 5:-
Page 17-18	Deception and Division	Neh 6:-
Page 19-20	Preserving the Gains	Neh 7:-
Page 21-22	The Word in Worship	Neh 8:-
Page 23-24	The Word Brings Repentance and Revival	Neh 9:, 10:-
Page 25	Responsibility of Completed Work	Neh 11:-
Page 26-27	Mission Accomplished	Neh 12:1, 43-44
Page 28-29	Revival Revisited	Neh 13:-

Nehemiah, the Patriot

This is the last historical book of the Old Testament. It was written around 430 BC and shows how God used a burdened layman to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

At the end of the 70 years of Captivity a group of Jews returned under Zerubbabel and built the Temple. Then comes a gap of 58 years (During which Esther is chosen Queen and saves her people). Ezra then leads another group back where Revival and Reform take place under his leadership. About 13 years later Nehemiah become burdened for the City and is given permission to return and rebuild the Walls (The Temple was completed earlier. Now the Walls were needed for Defense and Unity).

A Brief chronology of the time would look like this:

606- The Babylonians begin their invasion and the deportation of prisoners.

587- Jerusalem falls to the enemy

539- Babylon falls to Cyrus and the Medio-Persian empire begins

538- Cyrus gives his edict permitting the Jews to return to Jerusalem

536- About 50,000 Jews return. The Altar is rebuilt and sacrifices begin to be offered

520- The work begins again under Haggai and Zechariah's preaching

515- The Temple is completed and dedicated

476- Esther becomes Queen of Persia

458- Ezra comes to Jerusalem. Spiritual reforms follow

445- Nehemiah returns to rebuild the walls and establish the government of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah is one of the great examples in the Bible of a man who uses all of the ingredients of Biblical success-Prayer, Planning, and Perseverance. These all are evident when you notice his Character, His Concern, and His Common Sense.

I. HIS CHARACTER- Strictly Honest

Conscientious devotion to duty

Unbending integrity in motive and purpose

Practical godliness

He was a man that loved his country and his God and was willing to do his duty for both.

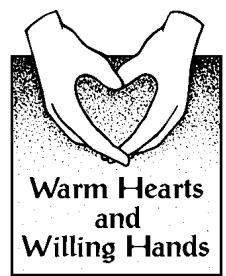
II. HIS CONCERN- (Whenever there is a Revival of God's work, some heart, like Nehemiah, must become burdened over the need)

-Like Moses, he counted the treasures of the World as naught for the opportunity to work for God.

-Like the disciples, he was willing to give up his family and his occupation to follow Christ.

-Like Christ, he was willing to be made of no reputation to bring glory to God.

NEEDED:



Every great work of God begins when a man of God is willing to leave his Wealth for the Walls, to Weep over Wickedness, and to Work with all his energy; in order to relieve the reproach of the people of God.

III. HIS COMMON SENSE He mixed agonizing with organizing and found the secret to success. Nehemiah was a man who prayed, planned, organized, and worked. We accomplish a mission for God when we depend on God for Strength but do what we can with what He has given us.

The outline of the first part of the book shows how Nehemiah worked. It also shows how God expects us to accomplish the jobs He calls us to do.

Chapter 1 The Problem- He began with an understanding of the need:
The People were in affliction; the walls torn down.

Chapter 2 The Preparation- Then he determined what's needed to be done to complete the job.
When God calls you to do a task spend time considering and looking. Don't begin until you have an idea of what needs to be done and how you will do it. Jesus said we must Count the Cost before we begin or we will end up in trouble before we complete the job.

Chapter 3 The Participation- Everyone had a job and a responsibility.
(Note that they also used Common Sense- everyone worked in own neighborhood)

Chapter 4 The Persecutions- Expect some difficulties along the way. That is why you must be sure of your burden and count the cost before you begin.

Chapter 5 The People- Project problems often turn into people problems. Don't let the project become more important than the people. The Lord did not come to save projects but people!

Chapter 6 The Phonies- Be aware of wolves in sheep's clothing. Sometimes people who claim to help are really out to hinder. Pray for Wisdom to know the difference.



Chapter 7 The Participates- Recognize the people who have done the job. A public recognition is often the way to renew effort for the next job. (Remember "Jones 16:4" Everyone needs a little bit of petting every now and then).

Men look for better methods. God looks for burdened men. May God raise up Heroes of Faith FROM this generation FOR this generation. If the work of God and the people of God are brought to reproach it will be because we fail to do the work God has called us to do.

Enlist in God's army today- and fight the good fight of Faith.

Would that God would give us the same zeal to see the work of God completed that the Jews had to see Jerusalem rebuilt- *How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.* (Ps 137:4-6)



The Burden for the Work

Neh 1:-

One of my favorite fables is that of the young man about to be married. He goes to his future Family's home and finds them all moaning and crying in the basement. Upon inquiry, he finds that they're afraid that when the daughter is married and has children then the child will come into the basement and be hit by a falling axe that is presently sticking in the ceiling beam. The young man laughs at them and simply removes the axe from the ceiling. He then seeks to find 3 people more foolish than this family.

We too may laugh at such a silly situation but I wonder how often WE mourn about problems in our country, our community, and our church because we aren't willing to do something about the situation. I want us to look at a man who saw a need and then set about to become part of the answer instead of part of the problem.

Nehemiah was a man of great power and prestige in Babylon but he is remembered because he became a man of great purpose for God. Men always look for better programs but God looks for better men!! God is still today looking for men that will yield themselves to Him so that He can use them to build the work of God. Are you the one He's looking for???

I. THE PROBLEM 1-3 You cannot find the solution until you recognize the problems. Nehemiah received word that the people of Jerusalem were in great affliction and reproach because the walls of Jerusalem still had not been built nor the gates repaired. This meant the people were discouraged (How would YOU like to live among rubble that consistently reminded you of how helpless you were?) and defeated (They had no way to keep their enemies out). Someone there should have done something but no one would take the first step.

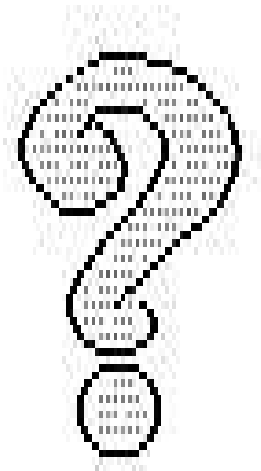
People need a rallying point. Sometimes to build people you must build "walls" (But remember this, the walls were needed. This was not "make work". The defense and unity of the city depended on these walls going up.).

If we are to be effective today then we too must realize the needs of lost people and seek to work on their problems.

Lost people are in:

1. Darkness (Jn 3:19)- They need LIGHT. Jesus is the Light- Jn 8:12 / *am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.* Christians need to shine their Light as well as BE lights. According to Matt 5:14 we aren't to hide our light under a bushel (Busy) or bed (Lazy). Let your light Shine.
2. Despair- Ep 2:12 *without Christ, having no hope*- They need HOPE which comes when they trust Christ as LORD (Ep 2:13 *Now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ*). When sins are forgiven you have Hope as well as new life.
3. Death- Ep 2:1 *dead in trespasses and sins*- They need LIFE that is found by faith in Christ.

When lost people aren't saved it may be because we fail to recognize their problem; and then fail to become part of the answer.



II. The PRAYER 4-7 The problem drove Nehemiah to God. Too often problems drive us from God and we end up with more problems. This was not a "now I lay me down to sleep" prayer. This was a real Prayer.



A) Real Prayer grows out of a burdened heart- The problem troubled Nehemiah's heart. When is the last time you were deeply troubled by sin and the fate of sinners?? A Sinner won't get saved as long as there is no conviction and a Christian won't work as long as there is no burden.

B) Real Prayer begins by worshiping God- Nehemiah acknowledged God as his source of Help and Hope (The "Lord's Prayer" begins with worship of God and an effective prayer will do so also). Many people's "prayers" are little more than talking to themselves! They don't seek God; they simply tell themselves how much trouble they're in!

C) Real Prayer acknowledges Sin- *both I and my father's house have sinned.* And Nehemiah knew the sin was twofold:

- 1) The wrong we do- *we dealt very corruptly against them*
- 2) The right we fail to do- *we have not kept thy commandments*

If we CONFESS our sins he is faithful and just to forgive.

III. THE PROMISE- 8-9 God had given a Promise to Israel that included a Warning and a Blessing (There must always be something to anchor your hope on. After all, if you build a great building on the sand you'll just have a great fall in the storm!!).

A) The Warning- *If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad.* God's promises for the punishment of sin are just as real as His promises for the forgiveness of sins. Rom 1:21-22 *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell severity; but toward thee goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.* If God's chosen nation could go into captivity because of sin then be aware that you can also!!

B) The Promised Blessing- *If ye turn unto me, and do my commandments I will gather them.*

The Blessings are ours if we:

- 1) Turn from sin to God- We call this Repentance
- 2) Do the commandments of God- We call this Commitment or Sanctification

If you're missing God's blessings then you have no one to blame but self.

IV. THE PLEA 10-11 He made a specific request from God- Prosper me in getting to do the work. What do you want God to do??? Are you willing to be part of the answer? "Here am I. send me"

Are the "walls" of your life broken down?? Let Jesus show you how to repair them.

Are you "moaning" over the sad situation of the Church and the world?? Volunteer for action.

Fasting

Neh 1:4 And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,

Fasting is something seldom preached on; and practiced even less!! Yet when Nehemiah was faced with the burden of Jerusalem broken walls, the first thing he did was to fast and pray.

Why don't people fast today? Is it because they view it as an Old Testament principle to be ignored today? Or do they neglect it because they're confused about what it is, about when it should be practiced, and about how it should be done? Are they missing a great help for their spiritual and physical life? Let's look for the Bible answers.

I. WHAT IS FASTING? Fasting in the Bible comes from words meaning (1) "to not eat", (2) "without grain or food", (3) "to cover the mouth" (I wonder how many people would prefer giving up food for a day instead of giving up taking!!), and (4) "to afflict or humble oneself".

Therefore Fasting= "To voluntarily deny the body something for a specific purpose". For Christians this means we abstain from something in order to draw near to God (Note the difference- Dieting means we abstain from food to lose weight. Fasting means we abstain from food in order to spend that time drawing near to God. It is not just doing without; it is giving up in order to draw near to God).

The Bible list Four Things that can be abstained from when we fast:

1) Food This can be abstaining from ALL food for 1 meal or for 1 day or longer (Several in the Bible fasted for 40 days; but only under God's direction. Fasting is not starving! It does not exhaust the bodies resources and abuse the body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit).

It can also be abstaining from CERTAIN foods for spiritual reasons (As Daniel and his friends in Dan. 1:-. This fasting not only produced a greater spiritual witness and awareness but it also made them much healthier and more mentally alert- Dan. 1:15,20).

2) Sleep II Sam 12:16 David praying for sick child

Dan 6:18 Darius praying for Daniel's deliverance from the lion's den

Practically this could mean getting up an hour early to pray and read the Bible (How many people are willing to sacrifice several hours sleep for a ball game or movie but aren't willing to give up any sleep for God?).

3) Sex I Cor 7:5 (By mutual consent of husband and wife, in order to pray)

4) Anything you have a right to do, but you abstain from doing in order to draw near to God in prayer (A night of TV, a day of fishing or hunting, a day of shopping, etc.)

II. WHEN SHOULD I FAST? Jesus did not say "if" but "when" you fast (Matt 6:16). He also said that we would need to fast after the bridegroom left (Luke 5:35). Fasting is part of the Christian life.

1) In time of Need- The heart just naturally seeks to have God's close presence. During these times earthly matters lose their appeal.

a. Hannah seeking a child- I Sam 1:7

b. David praying for sick child- II Sam 12:16

c. Paul's shipmates fasted 14 days in storm- Acts 27:33

2) In time of Sorrow. See Luke 5:33-35. Jesus said we don't fast when God is blessing and the sun is shining but we do when the storm clouds are hanging over head.

3) In time of approaching Danger. Esther 4:16. Esther requested that people fast and pray for her before she put her life on the line by approaching the King.

4) To defeat Satan. Certain demons are only defeated by fasting and prayer- Matt 17:21

5) To draw near to God. Anna "served God with fastings and prayers night and day"(Luke 2:27). Jesus fasted at the beginning of his ministry (Matt 4:2) and Paul fasted while he awaited God's direction for his life (Acts 9:9). Paul said that one of the marks of a good minister was fasting (II Cor 6:5) and when he listed the things he had done he listed "fasting often" among them (II Cor 11:27).

III. HOW SHOULD YOU FAST?? There are 3 basic types of Fast and the type of Fast will determine how you Fast.

1) National-- There were 3 Times of National Fasts:

- a) When Disaster strikes- I Sam 31:11-13 The King died.
- b) National Repentance- I Sam 7:3-6 Samuel fasted as he led in Revival
- c) Set times by God. Zech 8:19 *Thus saith the Lord of hosts; the fast of the fourth month, and the fast of the fifth, and the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be to the house of Judah joy and gladness, and cheerful feasts: therefore love the truth and peace.*

2) Church Wide Acts 13:2. When seeking what to do and who to lead (Most people make their plans and then ask God to bless them !!). Ezra 8:21 *Then I proclaimed a fast there...That we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us..*

3) Personal

a) In Secret- Not to be seen of men but to draw near to God Matt 6:16-18
--Not as a ritual. The Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14 fasted twice a week but didn't draw near to God.

b) By Service- God told Isaiah that we could fast not only by giving up something FOR self but also by giving OF self. Is 58:6-7 *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*

Remember that Fasting, when properly done, is a way to increase:

1. Holiness- Joel 2:12-13 *Therefore also now, saith the Lord, Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.* As you give up selfish desires to seek God you will find your spiritual life vastly improved.

2. Help- Matt 6:18 *That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.* When the loving heart of God sees his child in anguish He is naturally disposed to render the help needed. Jer 29:13 *Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

3. Health- A practical Fast could go like this:

Begin after supper and fast the next day and night until Breakfast the next day (Drink water during this time). An alternative is to begin after breakfast and fast until breakfast the next day. (There are some who say that God set aside 1 day in 7 to rest and we should do the same thing for our digestive system. That way we are continually strengthened physically as well as spiritually (By waiting on the Lord- Is. 40:31). A days fast allows the body to dispose of excess waste that tends to poison our system. As these waste are eliminated you will have increased energy, be more alert, and possibly become less depressed, anxious, and worried (Notice how often a wounded animal will go off and lie down. This keeps them from being burdened with the poison of food waste and the lose of energy needed to digest that food).

Ever notice how tired and sleepy you get after eating a big meal??. It take a lot of energy to digest food.

But remember that this is simply dieting if there is no devotion. Use the saved time to seek God or to serve others. Fasting is helpful and needful. DO YOU??

Broken Walls

Nearly 70 years passed between the building of the temple and the building of the walls of Jerusalem. You can't help but wonder why there was this great delay in doing such a needful work. And yet, today, this same type attitude exist in the work of God. Whenever a building project is completed everyone decides to "rest" awhile and it soon becomes almost impossible to get started doing anything else. Once a group of people get stopped and settled it requires a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm to get them restarted (It is much easier to direct an object when it's moving!)

I want to examine this situation and see the Reasons and the Results of Broken Walls. Then I want us to find help for the work of God today.

I. REASONS FOR BROKEN WALLS

A) Why the walls were broken down- SIN

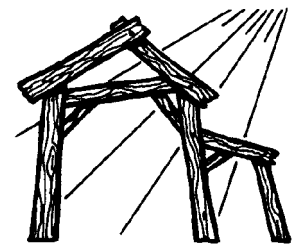
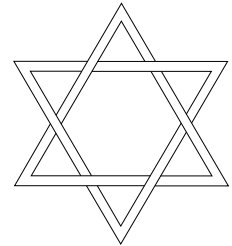
1. **National Sin**- Israel had gone from worship of God to worship of evil and Idols and finally God led them into captivity. Isaiah summed it up this way- *Is 5:4-5 What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? Wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:*

a. America saw it's walls start to crumble in 1973. In January of that year the Supreme Court legalized Abortion (murder) and in October we had an oil embargo that over tripled the price of oil and shook our nation to it's roots.

b. America's Churches stopped preaching against sin and now the nation (and the church) is being destroyed by divorce, incest, pornography, alcohol, and drugs.

2. **Personal Sin**- After David confessed his sin with Bath-sheba he was then able to ask God to "build thou the walls of Jerusalem" (Ps 51:18). Defeated, discouraged, dejected Christians are simply showing that their "walls" are broken down. Christians seem to think Holiness in Life and Lips is no longer applicable today. Somehow they have forgotten that God said our song should be *We have a strong city: salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks* (Is 26:1)

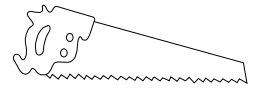
Is Satan able to defeat you time after time because your walls are crumbled by Sin???



**“Unless the Lord
builds the house,
those who build it
labor in vain.”**

Psalm 127:1

B) Why the Walls weren't rebuilt There was such an obvious need. Why didn't the people build the broken walls??



1. Lazy people

a. content with the situation-satisfied to live among rubble and in defeat because they didn't want to rock the boat and, after all, they were surviving.

b. concerned only with self- who worries about other people; or God's Honor, when I have a home to live in.

2. Leadership Problems- No one was willing to take the first step. Everyone thought someone else should do it. God had to bring in someone with a burdened heart all the way from Babylon!

3. Large Piles of rubbish- Neh 4:10 *Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we were not able to build the walls.* The vastness of the task causes many people to hesitate to begin. But a 1000 mile journey begins with 1 step.

II. THE RESULTS OF BROKEN WALLS

A) No Protection- There was nothing to keep the enemy out. This Results in:

Constant Fear (of Attack)

Constant Failure (Satan reminds you over and over of your inabilities by showing you the broken walls lying all around you).

No wonder so many Christians have hung their harps on the willows.

B) No unity- The wall was the thing that changed individual houses into a city. When it was broken down it was "every man for himself". The Body of Christ (The Church) is often ineffective because the hand is doing one thing while the arm is doing another!

C) No Separation- The walls surrounded the City and separated it from the Country around it. In the same way the Christian is to be in the world but not of the world. Just like the boat is to be in the water but we don't want the water in the boat.



Are you defeated and discouraged because the walls are broken down? Find out why.

Are you committing sin?? Are you compromising with sin?? Look to an outside leader- Jesus- and ask Him to restore the wall so you can have victory. That is the only way you can do your part as a Christian; as well as live a life of Holiness.

The Changes Caused by Commitment

Neh 2:-

Nehemiah had heard of the problems of Jerusalem in Chapter 1 and was burdened to pray for God to use him to help correct the situation. Now, nearly 4 months later, this burden has affected him in a number of ways. I want to look at these changes that should take place in a person when they become burdened for the work and will of God.

I. PHYSICALLY vs 1-3 The burden of Heart affected Nehemiah so much until the King questioned him about it (The night I was saved my mother asked me what had happened the moment I walked into the house).

A. It will affect your attitude- you'll joy in the midst of sorrows and, yet, you will sorrow over a world laughing its way to Hell.

B. It will affect your looks- You'll wear modest, decent apparel that brings honor to God, not self. You'll have a glow of God about you. Like Moses, you may not know it, but when you spend time alone with God it causes your face to shine. (The greatest compliment I get is when people ask me if I'm a preacher when they see me).

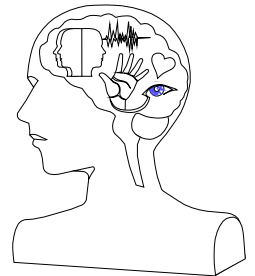
Do people take knowledge of you that you have been with Christ? (Acts 4:13)

II. SPIRITUALLY vs 4 You look for opportunities to be used of God and you bathe every decision in prayer. You don't look for an excuse, you look for an opportunity.

III. MENTALLY vs 5-8

A. You have a purpose that you work toward- a vision

B. You plan how best to accomplish that purpose-you use the wisdom God has given you.



IV. SOCIALLY vs 9-10

A. You acquire new friends-you're part of God's family

B. You acquire new enemies-because your light exposes darkness.

V. INTELLECTUALLY vs 11-20

A. He surveyed the need- you learn to consider the problem and count the cost.

B. He shared the burden- a burden burns in a man's soul until he must share it (see Jer 20:9)

C. He shunned the Scorners- a man on a mission doesn't have time to listen to dogs bark!

When a man and woman decide to get married they make a commitment to one another. That commitment changes them - from care-free unconcern to loving responsibility. When a person is saved and gets a burden from God he also will make a commitment that will change him.

Are YOU willing to accept the changes commitment brings?

Building the Walls

Neh. 3:-

Nehemiah had heard of the problems in Jerusalem, his heart was burdened and he began to pray that God would use him to correct the situation. His burden was so great until the King noticed his appearance and asked Nehemiah what the Problem was. Nehemiah told the King he wanted to go and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The King gave permission and Nehemiah set out for Jerusalem. Upon arrival he surveyed the situation and then laid his burden before the people.

Now the time has come to begin. It was not enough to have a burden; that burden must compel Nehemiah to build. And Nehemiah could not build by himself, he needed help. When he shared his burden with others they begin to see the need and the work began.

I. THE WALL

A) The Workers "A Place for Everyone" There are 42 different groups of workers mentioned.

vs 1- The high priest led the way

vs 2- Neighboring cities helped

vs 8- Artisans (goldsmiths) and Merchants helped (see vs 13-31)

Druggist (one of the apothecaries) helped

vs 9- The Mayor's son helped

vs 12-Even Women helped (he and his daughters)

vs 14-19-Officials of other cities helped

vs 23-30 Householders helped

So today the Church as the body of Christ has a job and a gift for everyone. Jesus called old men and young, fishermen and tax collectors, Zealots and Doubters to be his disciples. Most of the Time God calls us as missionaries to a factory, a farm, or a family instead of to Africa or India but there is a place for everyone.

B) The Cooperation "Everyone in His Place"

Nehemiah couldn't build the wall alone

The people couldn't build the wall alone

Together they could build as each fulfilled his own responsibility. It's amazing what can be accomplished when everyone simply does what they're supposed to do.

Many of the people worked where they lived. Day after day they had seen the need but they did not begin work until everyone caught the burden. Most people can tell you what needs to be done in a church or community but they're scared to venture out on their own.

(A leader is simply someone who is willing to take the first step.)

Some did extra work (But some would not work- vs 5)

Some were the only ones named from their family

Some were more zealous than others (vs 20 EARNESTLY)

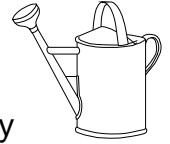
If the Church today is to work together to accomplish God's work on Earth it must have a:

1. Message- Christ
2. Mission- Getting people to Know and Show Christ
3. Minister- To follow
4. Members- To Work
5. Means- To work with
6. Men- To take the "chances" of Faith
7. Miracles- Of Faith (Otherwise we are like a Social "Club")

II. THE GATES The main reference points for much of the wall were the doors that led into the city. These 12 doors were the means to enter into the city and as we see the people repairing these means of access it should make each of us realize who can enter and how they can enter into the Heavenly Jerusalem as well as the earthly Jerusalem.

1. Dung Gate Neh 12:31 This is the gate they used when they carried out the city's trash. This would be the gate that the prodigal Son, the woman at the well, and Mary Magdalene would use.

2. Water Gate Neh 12:37 This is where the word of God was taught (Neh 8:1) and represents the Study of God's Word (see Ep 5:26). This is for people who come in via the Sunday School, CTS, Vacation Bible School route. What a tremendous responsibility a Teacher has.

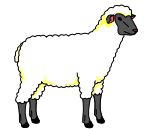


3. Ephraim Gate Neh 12:39 Ephraim was the name given to the northern Kingdom. Here it represents Relatives. When Andrew met Jesus he immediately wanted his brother Peter to meet Him. Most people in the average Church come in because of some relative or family connection. Will the circle be unbroken?

4. Old Gate Neh 12:39 This represents the Elderly. Many of them have wasted their lives for the Devil and need to be shown this gate before it's too late.

5. Fish Gate Neh 12:39 Jesus said we were to be "fishers of Men" and so this gate represents all Lost people. Most fishermen spend 90% of their time fishing and only 10% actually catching fish (If that much!). Keep the bait on the hook and the hook in the water.

6. Sheep Gate Neh 12:39 Jesus said he was the Shepherd and we were the Sheep but, sad to say, in today's Church there are a lot of Lost Sheep. Therefore, this gate is for the unsaved or backslidden Church member (Most churches average less than 80% of their S.S. enrollment in attendance and most have bigger church rolls than S.S. rolls). Leave the 99 and seek the 1.



7. Prison Gate Neh 12:39 This gate is for the Prisoners bound in slavery to Sin and sinning. Jesus said he came to set the prisoners free (Luke 4:18) and they need to be shown the way of escape.

8. Valley Gate Neh 3:13 This gate is for all those who are going thru valleys of Grief or depression. They need to realize that they can have victory and help in the valley (Ps 23:4). Jesus ministers to many people at this gate.



9. Horse Gate Neh 3:28 This represents those who ride to Church- either by Bus or by being picked up by concerned Church members. Jesus said to go out into the highways and byways and compel them to come in.

10. East Gate Neh 3:29 This gate was on the side where the sun comes up and represents Young People who are just getting started in life. Most decisions for Christ are made at a young age and we need to reach them before their heart becomes hardened.

II. Miphkad Gate Neh 3:31 (The Muster Gate where people were assigned jobs). This is for new people that have just moved into your community and are looking for a place to worship and work.

12. Fountain Gate Neh 3:15 This is the gate for anyone left. Rev 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say come, and let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely.*

But remember this, although there is a door for everyone, there is only one true Door-Christ. Jn 10:9 *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. BUT 10:1 He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*

THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE WORK OF GOD, ARE YOU IN YOUR PLACE? DOES SATAN ATTACK THE CHURCH THRU THE PORTION OF WALL YOU HAVE NOT REPAIRED?

ARE YOU OUTSIDE THE CITY? JESUS IS THE DOOR- COME IN TODAY.



Facing Problems that come with Building

The Work has begun. The Wall is being Built. BUT...And that's the way it always is. As soon as the Lord's work begins, Satan begins also. Chapters 4-6 show us some of the various methods Satan uses to try to stop us from building the walls.

Chapter 4-Outward Force

Chapter 5-Money & People Problems

Chapter 6- Deception & Division

Chapter 4 Outward Force to stop the building of the Walls.

I. SCORN 1-6

A) The Reason for the Scorn- Anytime you try to do a work for the Lord you can expect opposition. Satan is at war with God and he's determined to defeat God thru defeating God's people. As long as God's people are content to live defeated lives behind broken walls then Satan will leave them alone but as soon as they begin to build for God Satan becomes angry and tries to stop the work.

B) The Route of the Scorn-

1. The supposed impossibility of the task- "Will they revive the stones"
2. The weakness of the workers- "These feeble Jews"
3. The Dependence on Divine Help- "will they sacrifice so that God will accomplish in a day what has not been accomplished in years."
4. The poor quality of the work- "If a fox walk on the wall it will fall down"

C) The Reaction to the Scorn- Prayer and CONTINUED WORK vs 6 *So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together, unto the half thereof; for the people had a mind to work.*

II. FORCE 7-23 The walls are half completed now and the enemy realizes that scorn is not enough- taunts become threats.

A) The Characteristics of the Opposition

1. Combined- "They conspired all of them" (Sanballat, Tobiah, Arabians, Ammonites, Ashdodites) vs 7-8 Is it not remarkable how many "enemies" will become friends to defeat God's work? (See Pilate and Herod. Luke 23:12).

2. Angry- They were very wroth vs 7 Why were they angry? Because the walls were going up! They should have rejoiced in their neighbor's good fortune but instead they became angry. Jn 3:20 *For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

3. Wily- "They shall not know, neither see" vs 11 Remember that sometimes Satan is an "angel of light" (II Cor 11:14) and sometimes a Wolf in sheep's clothing (Matt 7:15). If we are to defeat Satan we must not be ignorant of his devices (II Cor 2:11).

4. Ruthless- "to slay them and cause the work to cease" vs 11 Satan's goal is to destroy the Christian and cause God's work to cease. REMEMBER THAT!!

B) The Method of the Opposition

1. Force 7-9
2. Discouragement 10
3. Rumors 11-13

C) The Answer to the Problem

1. Watch and Pray vs 9 (See Matt 26:40-41)

2. Encourage yourself in the Lord vs 14 God is still on the Throne! Remember that! He is more powerful than Satan.

3. Teamwork-Some work while others watch. Get a prayer partner to share the burden.

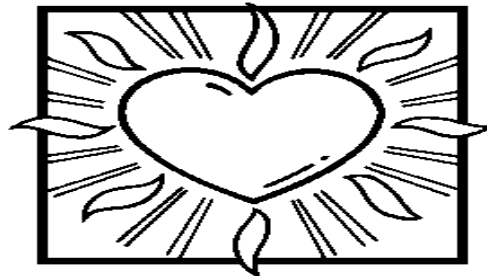
4. Preparation- Work with a weapon in hand. Keep on the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:10-18)

5. System- A trumpet call in case of trouble vs 19-20 Phone Prayer Group to handle emergency needs.

6. Fellowship- They all dwelt within the city vs 22. Sometimes you need the "courage of the crowd". Jesus said he would never leave or forsake us. When we were saved we joined with other Christians and became part of His Body.

If we are to continue building the wall today we must:

- Pray unceasingly
- Watch against encroachments of sin in our lives
- Wield the sword of Scriptural truth against sin and error
- Build up the walls of God's spiritual Jerusalem by daily witnessing for Christ.



**Stir up the
gift of God
which is in
thee.**

-2 Timothy 1:6

Facing the Problems that come with Building

Chapter 5- Money and People Problems

Nehemiah has faced the outward enemies that tried to stop the work of God and, having overcome them, the wall continues to be built.

Now Satan lets loose the termites of greed and division to try to stop the work from within. WE need to remember that the seed that survived Satan and the Sun was rendered fruitless by the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things (Mk 4:14-19); and that Jesus was finally betrayed for 30 pieces of Silver! The early Church had to elect Deacons because some of the widows didn't think they were getting their "fair share" (Acts 6) and it is money problems (that turn into People problems) that hinders much of God's work today.

Let's learn how Nehemiah meets and overcomes this problem so that the work of God can continue.

I. THE MONEY PROBLEMS vs 2-4

Many of the people were having financial difficulties because of:

A) Charity vs 2 They had given of their substance to help the helpless (One of the marks of Christianity is that those with the least tend to give the most to those in need (See II Cor 8:2 and remember the widow's mite). Christian love means that we share with others (I Jn 3:17) but many times it seems to catch us at a very bad time.

B) Circumstances vs 3 There was a drought that had depleted the farmers income while raising the price of food.

C) Collection of taxes vs 4 The king's tax burden was becoming more and more severe while money was more and more scarce.



II. THE PEOPLE PROBLEM vs 1-7 The Money problem developed into people problems.

A) Destroying Unity (Division among the Brethren) vs 1 Because some had and some did not have there were feelings of resentment and division among the people.

B) Destroying Family (Placing Children into Bondage) vs 5 Their poverty had forced some to sell their Children into bondage (Not like slavery; this was an indenture to teach a Child a trade) and now they were unable to pay off their indenture payments. (How many parents today must take a second job or an outside job to give their children "things" and fail to give them what they really need-- a home?)

C) Destroying Home and Hope (Loss of land and possessions) vs 5 The people had to sell everything to pay their debts. Now they had nothing to work for or with.

D) Destroying Compassion (Greed among the Group) vs 7 Some were taking advantage of the misfortune of others to charge high interest on loans and this was compounding the problems.

III. THE ANSWER vs 8-13

A) Remember what we did- vs 8 Christ redeemed them from the bondage of the enemy, will we put them in bondage to a Friend? (The freedom of many of the Israelites had been purchased from Babylonian captivity and now they were being enslaved for debts to their brethren).

B) Remember those who observe us- vs 9 "Ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies"?? Better to suffer wrong than do wrong (I Cor 6:7).

C) Remember the Leader's sacrifice- vs 10 We might have had but we didn't (The leaders of the people had a right to expect the people to support them as they labored for the people but they had not done so. See Paul's example in I Cor 9:15).

D) Restore the situation vs 11-13 Nehemiah asked the people to restore the land and vineyards they had confiscated and to allow the people to repay their debts interest free. This principle of restitution is a sadly missed part of Christianity today (See Luke 19:8).

THE EXAMPLE OF NEHEMIAH vs 14-19

1. He forsook his rights as governor
2. He did not take what the former governors took
3. He worked on the walls instead of buying land for personal use.
4. He helped feed others in need.



Sometimes it is so easy to let Finances come between us and Family, or Friends, or Faithfulness to God. Remember that *the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows* (I Tim 6:10). A good slogan to remember is "Use money and Love People--Don't Love money and Use People."

Facing the Problems that come with Building

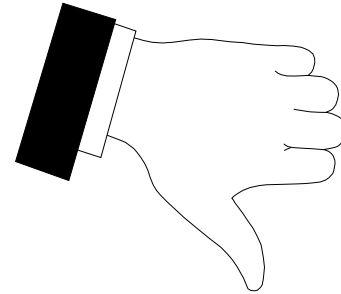
Chapter 6 - Deception and Division

The Wall is completed except for some minor details but the enemy won't give up. They have tried to attack the work from without (Chapter 4) and from within (Chapter 5) and now they seek to attack by distracting the Leader or dividing the people.

The methods Nehemiah uses to overcome these problems show us how we should persist in the work of the Lord in spite of every method the Devil throws at us.

I. DISTRACTION 6:1-4

Problem- The enemy tries to get Nehemiah to leave the work and meet with them. Sounds innocent enough but Nehemiah knows that it is just a trick (as Christ could see thru the questions of the Scribes and Pharisees) to distract him from his real purpose (You would be surprised to learn how many Pastors get so busy "Pastoring" until they can't get prepared to Preach! Or how many teachers allow everything in the world to come between them and study.).



Today Satan tries to distract us from God's Purpose for our lives by: (Mark 4:19)

1. The Cares of this world- Pressure of life overcomes our Purpose
2. The Deceitfulness of Riches-Profit replaces Purpose
3. The Lust of other things-Personal Pleasure outweighs Purpose

NOTE- It was not wrong for Nehemiah to meet. But it was wrong to allow the meeting to take him from God's purpose for him. Most of the things that separate us from God's Purpose are not wrong in themselves (Lu 14:18-20- Buying land and oxen or getting married) but they become problems because they distract us from our main job (Example of lighthouse keeper who gave away his oil to worthwhile causes until he did not have enough to keep his light burning on a stormy night and many ships were lost).

Answer- 1. DEFINITE PURPOSE vs 3 "I am doing a great work" Paul said, "This one thing I do" (Phil 3) and Christians ought to realize that God has called them to a specific task and they will answer for how they handle that task. The Body Principle of Christianity means that we don't have to do everything but we need to do what we're supposed to do well. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO???

2. DOGGED PERSISTENCE- Four times Nehemiah answered the same way. Once you know what you're supposed to do, Keep at it!! No matter how many times Satan tempts you to give up and accept a secondary goal keep on till you accomplish God's perfect purpose for your life. Don't start out chasing deer and end up chasing rabbits!!

II. SLANDER 6:5-9

Satan is a liar and the father of it (Jn 8:44) and he is the accuser of the Brethren (Rev 12:10). Since Distraction would not work Nehemiah's enemies decided to send an "open letter" slandering Nehemiah. (The old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me" may sound good but those who have been deeply wounded by slander and gossip know that words hurt worst than wounds). Do YOU do Satan's bidding by accusing the Brethren with gossip??

Answer- Prayer and Proclamation of the Truth. Don't allow the Slander to distract you (You don't stop your car because of a barking dog!!). Tell the Truth to those who will listen (Many won't because they WANT to believe bad) and then ask God to work things out and give you the strength to keep on doing right.

III. FALSE PROPHET 6:10-14

Nehemiah visits one of the shut-ins and finds him to be a False Prophet. He tells Nehemiah to escape death by going into the Holy Place of the temple but Nehemiah knows that God has said that only Priest could go there and death was the penalty for disobedience. Instead of saving his life he would have forfeited it!

Answer- Perception. Remember that "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor 11:14) and we need to learn to be "Fruit Inspectors" (Matt 7:15-20). We also need to learn to compare Scriptures with Scriptures (Satan quoted but wrongly applied Scripture when he tempted Christ).

IV. PROBLEMS 6:15-16

Building by it's very nature encounters and overcomes Problems. Don't expect a "bed of roses" without a few thorns-but don't hesitate because problems may be encountered.

Answer- Performance. When the enemy cast all his problems our way and we continue steadfastly to do our job for God the enemy will be "much cast down in their own eyes" and God will get the Glory.

V. DIVISION 6:17-19

The problem with Problems is that they generally turn into personality conflicts that make people "chose sides" and people find it hard to stand against family regardless of the "right" in the issue. Nehemiah faced this problem caused by personal preference and family loyalty and it continued even after the original reason for the problems had ended. The walls were completed and Tobiah had no reason to continue his "fight" but he continued to send notes and keep up a "following" of family members.

Answer- Patience. Everything Nehemiah said or did was held up for examination by a critical court. Nehemiah had to simply keep on keeping on and remember that the ultimate judgment will come from God.

When Problems come your way as you labor for the Lord: (1) don't get side tracked from your purpose, (2) Don't let slander defeat you, and (3) Don't sin because others have. *Stand, and having done all, stand* (Ep 6:13)

Preserving the Gains

Neh 7:-

The walls were complete. Nehemiah is finished building a Project and will soon begin building a People. But the Problem that comes with completing a project is that people tend to relax, let down the guard, and allow the enemy to destroy their gains.

The Greatest Danger you'll face is when you complete a project. Most Pastors leave churches when a project is completed; most dieters "gain their losses" when they reach their diet goal; and Israel gained and lost a land because they failed to continue to walk with the Lord. The book of Hebrews was written to a people who had started out well but were in danger of losing everything because they did not continue in the Faith. Paul told the Galatians *Ye did run well, who did hinder you that you should not obey the truth?* (Gal 5:7). When a man had the demons cast out of him but he did not preserve the gains Jesus said the last state of that man was worst than the first (Matt 12:43-45).

We need to learn how to face and overcome the dangers that come with a completed project and then learn how to go forward to greater heights. Nehemiah tells us how in this chapter.

I. PARTICIPATION vs 1 & 2. Those who sit on the sidelines are the first to fall (Wolves try to pull down the strays!!).

A) If you attend Church spasmodically then you may have dropped out for a length of time before you are missed.

B) If you attend but refuse to get involved you find it easy to miss. You must realize that Participation:

1. Builds Faith- Jn 7:17 *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God...* Jn 1:22 *BE ye doers of the word, and not hearers*

2. Bears Fruit- If you abide in the vine you'll bear fruit

3. Brings Feelings- You will feel needed and wanted.

What can you do?? Porters- Greeters at the door

Singers- Specials, choir, etc.

Levities- Teachers: Sunday, Wed. VBS...

How do we chose Workers??

a. Faithful- It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful (Ex. of bank clerk who lost job for hiding 2 pads of butter under his bread to keep from paying for them). In the parable of the talents the man who used his talents faithfully was the one who got the reward.

b. Feared God- Dreaded to fail God, Desired to Please God.

Basically we look for a Faithful Christian who has proved himself (Lay hands suddenly on no man- needs to attend Church 6 months before given a position of responsibility). This does not mean they cannot Participate. It means they need to Prepare before they accept a position of leadership.



II. PRECAUTIONS vs 3 You not only need Guidelines for Participation but you also need to set up some Guards.

A) Guard the Gate- This is how the enemy will try to come into the city. Eye gate, ear gate, mouth gate- Do you guard what you see, what you hear, and what you say?? Eve listened to Satan, looked at the fruit, and tried to debate with Satan (He can give you a justification for everything you want to do!).

B) Guard the Group- Everyone was on watch= care one for another
Everyone watched from his own house= Personal Involvement. (Gal 6:2 *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Gal 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.*)

We are individual members of the Body of Christ. We guard ourselves to keep from hurting others, we guard others to keep from hurting ourselves.

III. PLAN vs 4-73 Guidelines and Guards aren't enough; you also need Growth (You can't hold your own. If there is no growth there is decay.)

A) Prepare another Goal. The project needed people and Nehemiah sets out to populate the city. (See 11:1 where they eventually decide to bring 1/10 of the population to Jerusalem).

He who aims at nothing generally hits it. A ship without a helm will run onto the rocks (Ex. of man in Timmonsville who broke his steering as he crossed the railroad track and, out of control, killed a man walking beside the road.)

Example- Goal: become regular in Church
add Goal: become involved in Church work
add Goal: Study Bible to aid in Church work
add Goal: Regular Prayer for Power for Work.

B) Look at your resources- In this case Nehemiah listed the people so he could know who he had available. (What can you do?? What will you do??)

3 Things you can do with Nehemiah's list of people:

1. Analyze it. This is the list of people who came from Persia to Palestine in 536 BC with Zerubbabel. vs 7 leaders, 8-25 people by families, 26-38 people by cities, 39-42 Priest, 43-45 Levities, 46-56 Temple servants, 57-60 Solomon's Servants, 61-63 Those without genealogy, 66-67 Total people, 68-69 Total animals, 70-73 Gifts Given.

2. Agonize over it. This is supposed to be the same list as Ezra 2 but there are a few differences (Did some die along the way? Did some join at the last minute?) So today they that compare themselves among themselves are not wise (II Cor 10:12).(I can't preach like Billy Graham but I don't have to answer for Billy Graham. I have to answer for Mike Jones!!).

3. Apply it.

A) God remembers what you do-Woman who anointed Jesus' feet

B) God records Who you are- Is your name in the Lamb's book of life?

Preserve the Gains- Watch

Prepare to Grow- Have a Plan

Ponder your place in God's list- What will God put beside YOUR name?? (Achan was remembered as the troubler of Israel !! I Chron 2:7)

The Word in Worship

Neh 8:-

The project is completed. Now it is time to build the People (God will rescue People, not Projects, from this Planet. Therefore we need to build People). Just as Work was needed to build the walls so the Word is now needed to build the people. Therefore the emphasis changes from the Leader to the Reader!

Nehemiah heard of the problems in Jerusalem and God burdened his heart to come and accomplish a project. Now the people realize that the physical problem was caused by a spiritual problem and their heart is burdened to correct their situation. So they do what everyone should do; they went back to the Bible and sought to worship and learn of God. A great revival resulted. May God do the same for us.

1. THE PEOPLE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD 8:1-8

A) The Desire of the People vs 1 Do you WANT the Word?

B) The Description of the Service 2-6

1. Who was present- men and women and all that could hear with understanding. (Nursery for Children that can't understand)

2. When it was read-From sunrise until noon (Like our service in which we start at 9 with preaching, have Sunday School at 10, and then have a second preaching at 11).

3. How the people listened- attentive (Having ears to hear..)

4. Where Ezra was- on a "Pulpit" stand so everyone could see him. Surrounded by Partners to help him with the work of the Word. (Deacons, Teachers, Song Leaders, etc.)

5. Why the service was held- To honor and worship God thru reading of Him in the Word.

C) The Dissection of the Word 7-8

1. Many helped explain it- Not of private interpretation. (See II Pet 1:20, 2:1).

2. Distinctly= "To separate". They read each word separately so the people would realize every word was important.

3. Gave the sense- explained the meaning of the word.

4. Caused to understand- Taught the Word (No teaching has taken place if there is no learning.)

WHY SHOULD WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD???

WE GROW BY THE WORD- I Pet 2:2 *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

WE ARE CHANGED BY THE WORD- II Cor 3:18 *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

WE ARE CLEANSED BY THE WORD- Ps 119:9 *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.* Jn 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

WE ARE KEPT BY THE WORD- Ps 119:11 *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

DEFEAT DEVIL THRU THE WORD (Jesus when he was tempted, The Sword of Spirit is the Word)

CONVICTED BY THE WORD- Jer 23:29 *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord: and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

SAVED BY THE WORD (As it produces faith in Christ- Jam 1:21 *Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul.*

Rom 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*



II. THE PEOPLE HONOR THE WORD OF GOD 8:9-12

Maybe the world would be much more interested in coming to Church if they saw God's people get excited over His Word like these people did! They thought it was "Christmas" because they heard the word. Jer 15:16 *Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of Hosts.*

III. THE PEOPLE HEED THE WORD OF GOD 8:13-18

There were 3 feasts to be celebrated during the 7th month (Lev 23:23-44).

1. Feast of Trumpets first day of month
2. Day of Atonement 10th day of month
3. Feast of Tabernacle 15th to 22nd day of month

The people evidently had forgotten about these and now that they have returned to the Word of God they find it is not only to listen to but also to obey. They make the necessary arrangements to observe the Feast of Tabernacle by dwelling in booths and show that they believe the Bible means what it says.

WHY SHOULD WE HEED THE WORD OF GOD TODAY??

1. Reflections [To See Yourself as God sees you]- James 1:22-25 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

- A. Necessary to Heed the Word if it is to change us.
- B. Necessary to Heed the Word so God can Bless us.

2. Rock [To Stablish you no matter what comes your way] Luke 6:46-49 *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat Vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth: against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

The Word obeyed is our foundation in life's storms. It's too late to start "doing better" when the storm comes.

Remember that it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD?? When you come to Church do you come to Endure the word? Be Entertained by it? or Be Enlightened by it??

The Word Brings Repentance and Revival

Neh 9:- 10:-

Having returned to the word in Chapter 8 the people begin to see the need of Spiritual obedience, as well as physical heeding, of the word of God. They realize it's not enough to "go thru the motions" of living in booths, they need to correct their cold hearts and failing lives. In doing so they show us one of the best ways to Revival we encounter in the Scriptures.

1. REPENTANCE OVER PAST SINS vs 1-2 3 weeks of Bible study and Fellowship with God have brought the people to the place that they can see their sins and their need of separation from the sinful.

The closer one gets to the light of God the more you can see the darkness in and around you (Jn 3:19-21). Maybe what's needed today is a 3 week "Pre-Revival" so that we can really have REVIVAL in the one week we allow ourselves!

When is the last time you turned the searchlight of God's word on your life for an extended time??

2. REJOICING IN GOD 3-5 Confession of sin leads to worship of God.

They would read the Word for 1/4 of the day and then confess their sin of not applying that word to their lives the next 1/4 of the day. As they confessed sin they began to see how great God really was; causing them to rejoice in God's love, mercy, and holiness.

Maybe we should change our order of service-Pray for 15 minutes, Preach for 15 minutes, Praise for 15 minutes, and Practice for 15 minutes.

3. REHEARSAL OF WHAT GOD DID 6-15

A. In creation vs 6 (God made it all, all ought to worship Him)

B. In Choosing Abraham vs 7 Brought him out and gave a new beginning

C. In the Covenant with Abraham's seed vs 8 God performed what He promised.

D. In Carrying Israel out of Egypt into Canaan vs 9-15 Deliverance, Preservation, and Possession

Jesus told the Ephesian Church to Remember what they had before they left their first love (Rev 2:4-5). It was when the Prodigal son remembered the benefits at the Father's house that he returned home (Lu 15:17). Today, we too, need to remember what God has done for us and retell it often.

When is the last time YOU testified of God's Blessings in your life?

4. REBELLION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL vs 16-35

How heartbreaking that verse 16 begins "but"; then lists the rebellion of the children of Israel as time after time they turn back after God has delivered them. vs 29 sums up their attitude, *They dealt proudly* (Pride in self), *and hearkened not unto thy commandments* (Disobedience), *but sinned against thy judgments* (Rebelled against chastisement), *and withdrew the shoulder* (Loss of fellowship), and *hardened their neck* (stubbornness), *and would not hear* (Defiance).

How sad that it happened to their fathers. How doubly sad that in verse 33 they had to admit that they also were guilty.

Have you spurned God's Love, Fellowship, and Forgiveness to go your own way in the world???

5. **RESULTS OF REBELLION** vs 36-37 But sin and rebellion does not go unpunished. The harvest comes if the "crop" is planted.

A) Servants in their own land- "Freedom" from God had brought bondage to sin (In America today freedom for all has meant less and less freedom for any!!!).

B) Their increase went to the kings God had allowed to conquer them- Benefits became burdens as the rulers taxed them more and more. Every time they would gain a little the government would tax them more. (Sound familiar?!)

C) They have dominion over our bodies and our cattle (Possessions at their pleasure). The old saying is, "The man takes a drink, the drink takes a drink, the drink takes a man!" So it is with sin. It conquers your land, then your money, and then your body. No wonder Jesus talked about gaining the whole world while losing your own soul.

D) We are in great distress- not only lost possessions but also lost hope.

The Wages of Sin are death. And Payday is Coming !!!

6. **REDEDICATION TO DOING RIGHT** vs 38 10:1-39

The people "stood up to be counted" about returning to doing right. There is something about a Public Committal of your self that really helps settle an issue.



**“Teach me thy way, O Lord,
that I may walk in thy truth.”**

Psalm 86:11

The People promised to:

A) Observe and do all the Commandments of the Lord 10:29 (Personal Life). Going to Learn what is right and then Live what is right. Not only going to Hear the Word but also Do the Word (See Ja 1:22).

B) Refrain from "Mixed Marriages" 10:30 (Family Life)

1. Maintain purify of Jewish Line
2. Avoid being unequally yoked with the world

C) Observe God's Law of Sabbath 10:31 (Social Life)

1. In regard to Labor- 1 day of rest per week
2. In regard to Leaving- Leave land free 1 year in 7
3. In regard to Jubilee- Year of freedom from debts

D) Support for the House of God 10:32-39 (Spiritual Life)

1. Financially-Bring the yearly offering they were supposed to bring
2. Physically- Supply the wood that was needed
3. Proportionally- Tithe of the Firstfruits.

**REAL REVIVAL COMES WHEN PEOPLE REPENT OF SIN
AND RETURN TO DOING RIGHT.
WILL YOU ????**

Responsibility of Completed Work

Neh 11:-

After you Re-Build and have Revival you now want to Reach out to get People. The Re-built walls have no purpose if there are no people. Always keep in mind that the ultimate goal of a Project is people- not Pride in Building.

I. **POPULATING THE CITY** vs 1-2 The Ultimate Goal

A) The City was a Place of:

1. Peril- Place enemy attacked
2. Perspiration- Much rubble, Temple to be maintained
3. Protection- Walls surround, Strength of Fellowship

B) People were there because:

1. Some were Rulers- Their "Job" (They had a heart for work)
2. 1/10 of the People- "Luck of the Lot" (Many people chose a Church because of Family or Friends)
3. Some Willingly offered to stay in Jerusalem- and obtained the Praise of the People (They chose to do God's Work in God's Place.)

1. Are you willing to get on the "Front Lines" and do battle for the Kingdom of God??
2. Are you involved in "Populating the Church" by witnessing, working, and praying???

II. **POSITIONING THE PEOPLE** vs 3-36 Not just "figures" but functioning workers for God.

A) Their Family- Each person is listed according to Family.

1. Received my name from my family- Physical and Spiritual
 2. Received my "Basics" from my family- Values, convictions, reputation (one of the "Jones boys").
- When the Roll is called up yonder will the circle be unbroken??

B) Their function- didn't just dwell, had a job to do

vs 6- valiant men- men of activity (Busy people have no time to fear or fret).

vs 9- an overseer- second over the city (Assistant)

vs 11- Ruler of the house of God

vs 12- Brethren who did the work of the house of God

vs 13- Chief of the fathers

vs 14- mighty men of valor- (We need Christian "Heros")

vs 16- oversight of the outward business of the house of God

vs 17- Principal People to begin the Thanksgiving prayer

vs 19- Gate keepers (Greeters, Absentee contacters)

vs 20- singers over the business of the house of God

vs 24- at the king's hand in all matters concerning the people

(If you have 100 people in church most will say they have one Talent. Even if that is so look at this:

10 5 talent people= 50 talents, 20 2 talent people=40 talents, but 70 1 talent people= 70 talents!!.

Therefore the 1 talent people can do more than the 5 or 2 talent people.)

Problem- 1. We forget what "game" we're playing; Not tennis with 1 player and many spectators; But Football with offense, defense, trainers, water boys, cheerers.

2. We forget our "Goal"- Not just to show up at the game

Not just to keep the other team scoreless but to score ourselves.

ARE YOU TRYING TO FILL THE HOUSE OF GOD SO THERE WILL BE A REASON TO BUILD??
OR DO YOU JUST WANT TO BUILD???

Mission Accomplished

Neh 12:1,43,44

This chapter shows the triumphal march around the completed walls of Jerusalem. One group of Priest went in one direction under the direction of Ezra and another group went in the opposite direction with Nehemiah. They met opposite the Temple and dedicated the Walls to God with great Joy and Rejoicing.

A need had been seen and now the job was completed. Nehemiah reflects on "Mission Accomplished" and shows us the joy of doing what needs to be done. In our own lives we meet with similar needs and problems and we look for similar results.



Will God say "Well Done" or Not Done?

I. REFLECTION ON PAST ACTIONS vs 1 Nehemiah begins by listing the priest that came with Zerubbabel. They were the ones that made the original sacrifice to come from Babylon and rebuild the Temple so that the Walls would have a purpose.

As Nehemiah reflected back on past actions to see where he had come from, so we today need to continually look back to those who have come before us and sacrificed in order to allow us to have what we have today.

Reflect on the fact that **IT ALL BEGINS AS A SEED**. Every idea, every life, every project, begins as a seed. (In Nehemiah's life Caring became concern, became conviction, became Construction!).

A) Be Careful of the TYPE OF SEED you sow- Remember that you reap what you sow. If it's bad seed you'll get bad fruit.

B) Be Careful of the TIME OF SOWING- As you have opportunity do good to all men. (Example of man who stopped to fix a flat for a lady who later turned out to be the employment manager he was going to see). Remember that the 3 most important decision in your life are generally made by the time you are 25- Job, Partner, Salvation.

C) Be Careful of the TYPE OF SOWING you do: (See Mark 4)

1. Lost Seed- The "Birds" snatch up your opportunities
2. "Shooting Star" Seed- No root so they wither when going gets rough. (Be careful of taking easy way out always)
3. Choked Seed- Allow other things to come between you and your purpose.
4. Fruitful Seed- Good Ground, Honest Heart

II. REJOICING IN PRESENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS vs 43 The battle had been difficult but Victory made it all worthwhile.

A) Building for Success- People need obtainable goals. There must be something to aim for. Then this big goal must be divided into smaller goals- Graduate, Pass each grade, pass each course. (If you know where you're going you know how far you've come and how far you have to go.)

B) Basis of Success- The only place in Bible "Success" is found is Josh 1:8 *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* (See also Ps 1:1-) Success therefore is tied to Reading and Heeding the Word of God. Find God's Plan for your Life. Get in It. Do it.

III. REGARDING FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS vs 44 (Guidelines were laid down for future work).

A) Realize you are planting now for future growth

1. Habits become hardened; be careful of the "molds" you are using today for they will determine your course tomorrow.
2. Grab a Goal to guide you and realize that Principles are more important than Profit or Praise.

B) Remember there is a Judgment to come: Ecc 12:13-14 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil*

WHEN YOUR LIFE IS OVER WILL YOU LOOK BACK WITH REGRET OR REJOICING??

Revival Revisited

Nehemiah closes his book by showing how easy it was for people to fall back into sin and sinfulness. It is sad that the last historical events of the Old Testament are about the JEWS falling back into the pattern that had so recently resulted in their captivity. Let this be a warning to each of us of the need of Watchfulness.

Nehemiah also shows how he corrected the situation and continually asks God to remember him well for the work. Let this remind each of us that there is a Judgment to come. Let us Watch, and Work, with that in mind.

I. THE SINS. How sad that people fall into the same sins time after time. Nehemiah had dealt with most of these sins in chapter 10. Now, after a visit to Babylon (vs 6), he finds the same conditions existing..

NOTE- 1) Be careful how you avoid sin just when the "Preacher" is around

2) Be careful how you follow men instead of God. (Abraham followed God. Lot followed Abraham. When they separated Lot ended up in Sodom!).

A) Mixed Multitudes 1-3 When the wall was dedicated someone found the Scripture that commanded the Jews to separate from the Ammonites and Moabites. The reasons were twofold:

1. Purity of the Jewish line of Christ.
2. Penalty for past sinful traits and actions.

Even today we are told *not to keep company with any man that is called a brother (if he) be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner: (I Cor 5:11)* We are also commanded to *be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: (II Cor 6:14)*. Christians need to remember the old saying, "When you lay down with the dogs you get up with fleas!".

B) Misuse of God's House 4-9 One of the Priest had decided to allow one of his friends (But an enemy of God's work!) to use part of the temple to live in. This meant that the funds for the temple had no storage place and helped bring about the next problem.

How many Christians send much money to some TV Evangelist while allowing the work of God at home to go lacking? (At Church they at least have a vote in how it is used but they have no input at all with the faraway preacher).

How many times do friendships replace fundamentals and God's honor suffers???

C) Misappropriation of Tithes 10-14. The people had begun to withhold tithes (because of the Church situation??) and the Levities had to leave their ministry and go to work to earn a living.

Are YOU stealing God's tithes??

Are you keeping your minister so poor he can't do the work God called him to do??

D) Mischief on the Sabbath 15-22. Again Nehemiah has to deal with the fact that the people were disregarding the Sabbath day. Some were working, some were selling, and the Levities were not "keeping the gate" to prevent it. This was a common and continuing problem and one of the reasons God sent Judah into Captivity (See II Chron 36:21).

Although Christians do not keep Sabbath today but, instead, celebrate Sunday as the day Christ arose, still we should reverence and honor Sunday and do no unnecessary work or shopping on Sunday.

E) Mistakes about Marriage 23-31. Again Nehemiah finds those who have rejected God's Word in regard to marriage and now the results are seen in Children who talk like and about the "world" instead of God. Even so today there are many who reject God's teachings about authority in the home and guidelines for raising children and end up in trouble.

II. THE SERVANT vs 14,22,31. Nehemiah asked God to remember that although the people had fallen back into sin, he hadn't. He wanted God to remember the work he had done and judge him by his work and not the people's failure.

Even so today we need to wonder how we will be remembered and what we will leave behind. Death is coming to each of us. More often than not it will come quickly and without time to rearrange our daily life. When people look through what you have left behind will it give them confidence about where you have gone or will it bring disappointment and distress?

1. WHAT JESUS LEFT BEHIND

A) A Completed Salvation- He could cry, "It is finished!". The price was paid, The way was provided. Nothing can be added; only accepted.

B) A Purchased Church- The Body of Christ to function for Him.

Mission of the Church:

1. Preach and teach all the World.
2. Provide a House of Prayer
3. Sustain Divine Worship
4. Defend Christian Faith
5. Proclaim the Lord's Return

C) The Great Commission- Go ye therefore unto all the world.

(Throughout the years this has been the grounds for Exploration, Evangelization, and Education as men sought to carry the message of Christ to the ends of the earth.)

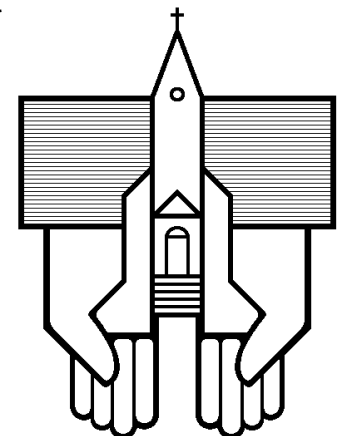
D) Victory for us to enjoy-Death Defeated, an Abundant Life, the Holy Spirit to empower us. Glory!!

2. WHAT I WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND

A) No Question about my Salvation- I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day- II Tim 1:12

B) No money that belongs to God-Tithes paid up (Not skipping weeks when I am on vacation or when I'm absent from God's house. I don't want to face God and have Him say that I have been a thief and a robber in the matter of my tithing.)

C) My Job Completed- How long do I want to live? Until God says I have finished my course. What do I want to be able to say at the time of my death, I have kept the Faith.



*Lord, you have been
our dwelling place
in all generations.*

Psalm 90:1

HAVE YOU RETURNED TO FORMER SINS???

DO YOU NEED TO REVISIT REVIVAL?

HOW WILL THE WORLD REMEMBER YOU???

HOW WILL GOD???

The most important decision you will ever make is your decision about receiving Christ as your Savior. It's the most important decision you'll ever make because:

1> It's an **ETERNAL DECISION**- Heb 9:15 *for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

1 John 5:13 *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

The decision you make about Christ will effect you NOW and for ETERNITY. This is not something to be treated lightly or put off until a later time.

2> It's a **NECESSARY DECISION**- Heb 9:27 *it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.* Every person MAKES A DECISION about Christ- Either to Accept Him as Savior or reject Him and be lost. EVERY man must Die, EVERY man must face the Judgment. Only the Blood of Christ can deliver us from Condemnation.



WHO SHOULD BE SAVED: ROM 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
ROM 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

WHY YOU SHOULD BE SAVED: ROM 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* ROM 5:12 *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*

WHEN TO BE SAVED: ROM 5:8 *God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

THE WAY TO BE SAVED: ROM 10:9-10 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

HOW TO LIVE AFTER YOU ARE SAVED:

ROM 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Have you Accepted Christ as Savior?
If you need help or follow up booklets then contact--
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