

“A Great Work”

Nehemiah 6:3

Introduction:

- A. Nehemiah's great work was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after Babylonian captivity.
 - 1. Ruined by Babylonian invasion. (606-586 B.C.)
 - 2. Rebuilt by Nehemiah, governor of Judea (444-432 B.C.) under Persian ruler.
 - 3. Completed work in 52 days. (6:15)
- B. Our great work in building up the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11,12).
 - 1. In some cases building it up for the first time in a community.
 - 2. In other cases rebuilding it after it has been torn down.
 - 3. In either case we will be helped by studying why Nehemiah's great work succeeded.

Discussion:

- I. They Were Doing A Great work Because It was God's Work. (Neh. 6:16)**
 - A. God authorized it. (Neh. 2:12; cf. 2 John 9-11).
 - B. God fought for it. (Neh. 4:19, 20; Rom. 8:31-39).
- II. They Believed They Were Doing A Great Work. (Neh. 6:3,4)**
 - A. Unless we believe that saving souls and building up church is great work, will *do little*.
 - B. Unless we believe we are doing great work, will *never be deeply involved*.
 - C. Unless we believe were doing a great work, will *always find activities uninteresting*.
 - D. Unless we believe we are doing great work, will *not sacrifice for it*. (cf. Neh. 5:18; 2 Cor. 8).
- III. They Refused To Be Hindered From The Work.**
 - A. Not by ridicule from their enemies. (Neh. 4:2-4).
 - 1. Will quit if listen too much to “what they are saying...”
 - 2. Will be defeated if we don't dismiss unjust criticism. (cf. Mt. 5:11)
 - B. Not by compromise with their enemies. (Neh. 6:2-4)
 - 1. Too many willing fellowship sin and error by word and deed. (Cf. Eph. 5:11)
 - 2. Too many try to pacify the “enemies of cross” (cf Phil. 3:18; Gal. 2:5).
 - 3. Too many willing to accept any offer “to get together” (6:2)–Like bear and hunter.
- IV. They Had A “Mind To Work”. (Neh. 4:2-3, 6, 23).**
 - A. Nehemiah was a good leader, but the “*people* had a mind to work”.
 - B. The church needs good leadership, but:
 - 1. Little can be done unless the people have a mind to work.
 - 2. Church will not reach potential until all get involved. (Cf. Acts 8:4).
- V. They Had A Will To Fight.**
 - A. They combined weapons with their work tools. (Neh. 4:16-18).
 - B. We must build by speaking the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15, 16)
 - C. We must also fight error. (2 Cor. 10:5,6; Jude 3; Tit. 2:15) - Some only fight fighting.
 - D. We must *weed and seed*.

Conclusion:

- A. Let us get involved in greatest work know to man - saving souls, our own and others.
- B. Let us believe in the work we are doing - a great work - God's work.
- C. Let us be busy working for truth and fighting the sin in or out of church.
 - 1. For truth and morality, against religious error or moral decay.
 - 2. Longsuffering when needed, but never compromising the truth.