

“Let Us Rise Up and Build”

Neh. 2:17-18

Introduction:

- A. Nehemiah was a great builder and leader.
 - 1. Returned from Babylonian captivity as governor of Judah.
 - 2. Rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days (6:15)
- B. Nehemiah did a great work. (6:3)
 - 1. We are given a greater work than Nehemiah – building up the church (cf. 1 Cor. 3:9-10).
 - 2. Reasons for Nehemiah's success are reasons for success today.

Discussion:

I. “The People Had A Mind To Work.” (4:6)

- A. “The people had a mind to work” – Not just the leadership (Nehemiah).
 - 1. This must be true of governments, communities, companies, clubs, etc.
 - 2. This especially must be true of the church. (cf. Acts 8:4; 11:29).
- B. “The people had a mind to work” in spite of obstacles.
 - 1. Ridicule from their enemies. (Neh. 4:2-4).
 - a. Will quit if listen too much to “what they are saying...”
 - b. Will be defeated if we don't dismiss unjust criticism. (cf. Mt. 5:11)
 - 2. Offers of compromise by their enemies. (Neh. 6:2-4)
 - a. Too many trying to seek accommodation with “enemies of cross” (cf Phil. 3:18).
 - b. Too many want peace so badly will go to any lengths to get it.
 - c. Too many willing to accept any offer “to get together” (6:2)–Like bear and hunter.
- C. Churches hindered because people do not “have mind to work.”
 - 1. A mind to study Bible. (1 Pet. 2:2).
 - 2. A mind to worship regularly. (cf. Acts 20:6-7).
 - 3. A mind to support work. (cf. Phil. 4:16; 1 Cor. 16:2).
 - 4. A mind to save souls. (cf. Acts 17:16).

II. The People Mixed “Weapons” with “Work” (4:16-17).

- A. The wall was not rebuilt by work alone - neither can church.
 - 1. Cannot build up church without provoking opposition (Matt. 10:34-36)
 - 2. Cannot build up church without defending gospel. (Phil. 1:7,17).
 - 3. Cannot build up church without fighting sin. (Gal. 2:4-5, 11-14).
 - 4. Cannot build up church by compromising with opposition. (cf. ch. 6:3).
- B. The wall was not rebuilt by weapons alone. (cf. Rev. 2:1-6).
 - 1. The church is not made strong by just opposing the right things.
 - 2. The church must not only oppose error – it must actively promote and practice truth..

III. “The People Stood In Their Place. (8:7).

- A. One can be out of place on particular occasions
 - 1. If does not assemble for worship (Heb. 10:25)
 - 2. If does not behave in worship (1 Cor. 14:40)
 - 3. If he does not stand with those who defend the truth (2 Tim. 4:16)
- B. One can be out of place relative to function. (cf. Rom. 12:3-8).
 - 1. One can assume oversight without appointment.
 - 2. One can assume too much authority. (cf. III John 9).
 - 3. One can usurp authority and function. (cf. 1 Tim. 2:12; 1 Cor. 14:34).
- C. One can be out of place relative to age. (1 Tim. 5:1-2).

Conclusion:

- A. If church is to be built up: It must have those who are willing to work, defend, stand in their place.