

## THE WORK: THE STEAD-FAST CHARACTER OF THE WORKERS

### THE BACK GROUND OF THE WORK Neh. 2:17-30

1. Nehemiah viewed the walls. Reports to the people.
  1. "Come let us build the walls of Jerusalem."
  2. "That we be no more a reproach." Neh. 2:17.
2. What the people thought about the work:
  1. "Let us rise up and build."
  2. "So they strengthened their hands for this good work." Neh. 2:18
3. The action of the people concerning the work.
  1. It was a voluntary work.
    1. "Let us rise up and build."
    2. They made preparation for the work. Neh. 2:18Those lingering about the Ecclesiastical marketplace in idleness because "no man hath hired us," are to be pitied. Matt. 20:1-5
  2. It was a united work.
    1. "Next unto them," "Next unto him," "After him," "After them," appears more than thirty times in chapter 3 of Nehemiah.
    2. Every worker joined work with that of his neighbor.
    3. Because they were united in heart they willingly united in effort.
    4. Of the Corinthians and of us Paul said, "We then as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." 2 Cor. 6:1
  3. It was a successful work.
    1. Of those who had houses it is said, "Every one repaired over against his house." Neh. 3:28-30
      1. Building for God should begin at the Jerusalem of our own door. Joshua said, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15
    2. All may not be able to do the same work but all can do some work.
    3. Had you been there the 25th day of September that year you would have been one among the number to shout that the work was completed in fifty-two days.

The steadfast character of the workers the reason for the success of this work. Three ways in which their character is described:

1. THEY HAD A MIND TO WORK. Neh. 4:6
  1. Had not the mind to sit moping over their difficulties and they had difficulties from without and from within.
  2. They had not that mind that expresses itself in mere talk and fault-finding.
  3. It is possible that they knew something of that statement in Joshua 1:9; "Be strong, and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be dismayed, for the Lord thy God is with thee."
  4. They must have at least known something of the principle Paul expressed in 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
2. THEY HAD A HEART TO PRAY. (Neh. 4:9)
  1. "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God."
    1. A working mind must always be accompanied with a praying heart.
    2. We are called not only to "put on the whole armour of God," but admonished also to "pray always with all prayer" Eph. 6:11-18.
    3. Those who have no heart prayer about a work will soon have no mind for the work.
3. THEY HAD AN EYE TO WATCH. Neh. 4:9; "Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night (their enemies) because of them."
  1. Watching and praying are frequently linked together in the scriptures Matt. 26:41; "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Mark 13:33; "Take ye heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is come." Peter 4:7; "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch and pray." It is sad to see so many today who seem at least to be void of A MIND TO WORK A HEART TO PRAY, AN EYE TO WATCH.



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