

**The Difference Between
“The Church” And “The
Movement”**
([Click Here](#))

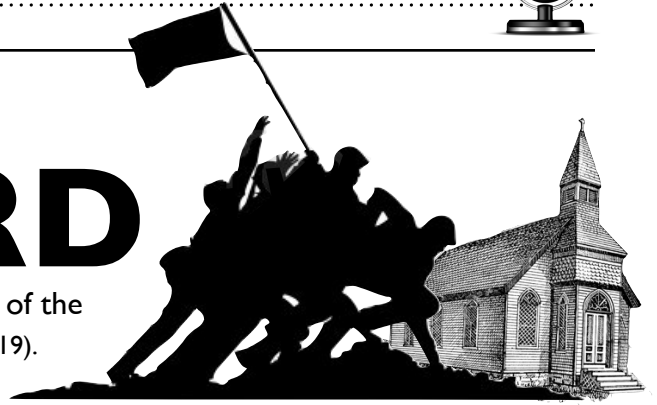
**“I Will Build
My Church”**
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**Understanding the
Times In Which We
Are living**
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Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 27 - July 21, 2014

The Prelude To Revival

Allowing God To Change Our Lifestyle

We said in our last article that most of God's people in Nehemiah's day could care less about the things of God. They were not about to mess up their lifestyle with the Babylonians. Nehemiah was not one of those self-centered compromisers. When he got a report of the conditions of the faithful remnant who had returned to Jerusalem we read that Nehemiah said,

Nehemiah 1:4,

“When I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.”

In chapters eight and nine of the Book of Nehemiah we find Israel experienced a tremendous God-sent revival. In the first seven chapters we have the prelude to that revival. In our last article we considered Nehemiah's concern for the **remnant**, that caused him to **repent**, and his course of **restoration**. It was not life as usual for Nehemiah.

Nehemiah's Concern

Nehemiah 1:2,

*“I asked them **concerning** the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and **concerning** Jerusalem.”*

Nehemiah was concerned for the people, (“concerning the Jews”) and he was concerned for the place (“concerning Jerusalem”). Very few professed Christians are concerned about the condition in which we find God's people today, or the place we call God's local church.

LITTLE IS MUCH WHEN GOD IS IN IT

*In the harvest field now ripened
There's a work for all to do;
Hark! the voice of God is calling
To the harvest calling you.*

*Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown—and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name.*

*In the mad rush of the broad way,
In the hurry and the strife,
Tell of Jesus' love and mercy,
Give to them the Word of Life.*

*Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.*

*Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.*

*When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run,
He will say, if we are faithful,
“Welcome home, My child
well done!”*

Nehemiah's Conviction

Nehemiah 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."

People weep when they are affected personally.

Nehemiah 1:3,

"And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire."

Nehemiah was personally affected because God's people and God's place were a bad testimony for the Lord.

Nehemiah's Confession

Nehemiah 1:5-7,

"And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:

*6 Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the **prayer** of thy servant, which **I pray before thee now, day and night**, for the children of Israel thy servants, and **confess the sins** of the children of Israel, which **we have sinned** against thee: both **I and my father's house have sinned.***

*7 **We have dealt very corruptly against thee**, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses.*

Nehemiah prayed "day and night" saying, "I and my father's house have sinned."

God's Covenant

Nehemiah 1:8,9,

"Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:

9 But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there"

Nehemiah's Counterattack

Nehemiah 1:11,

"O LORD, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who

Swelling Is Not Growth



You can smack your thumb with a hammer and you will have swelling, however, swelling and growth are two different things.

Swelling is something that shows enlargement that happens apart from the established course.

Growth is the process of increasing and according to the Scriptures the established course is "God giveth the increase" (First Corinthians 3:7).

What Sort It Is - Not What Size It Is

First Corinthians 3:13,

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

The faithful preacher must be willing to preach, so that when he stands before God to give an answer for his ministry he will be able to say,

Psalms 40:9,

"I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest."

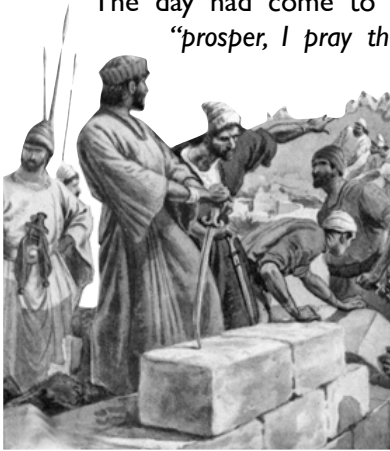
When we give an account of our ministry to the Lord may we be able to say, as Paul said,

Acts 20:27,

"I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant **this day**, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

The day had come to do something and Nehemiah prayed, "prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. (the king) For I was the king's cupbearer."



Nehemiah's Confrontation

Nehemiah 2:11,

"So I came to Jerusalem."

A confrontation is a battle between opposing parties. The remainder of the Book deals with Nehemiah's confrontation against those who opposed the cause of the Lord. Here

is a convicting thought. Are we in a confrontation against evil workers or are we peacefully coexisting with them?

Nehemiah was living the good life. He had a plushy government job. He was living a life of peace, prosperity, and political power; however, he gave it all up because he was willing to follow the leading of the Lord.

Sanballat And Tobiah

Nehemiah 2:10,

"When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

Nehemiah's first opposition was from Sanballat and Tobiah who were "grieved exceedingly." Why were they grieved? They were grieved "that there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel."

According to the historian Josephus, Sanballat was the governor of Samaria and had been in charge of building the temple on Mount Gerizim. This temple was an exact replica of the one at Jerusalem and was located about thirty miles north of Jerusalem. In John chapter four the woman at the well said, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship" (John 4:20).

Another reason Sanballat was exceedingly grieved about Nehemiah coming to rebuild the walls was the fact that when Ezra had come back to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem the Samaritans wanted to get involved.

In Ezra 4:1,2, we read,

"Now when **the adversaries** of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

Nehemiah's Gates



Sheep Gate

Relationship With Christ

Fish Gate

Becoming Fishers of Men

Old Gate

"Ask for the old paths"

Valley Gate

"If my people...shall humble themselves."

Dung Gate

Getting Out The Garbage

Water Gate

Back To The Word of God

Fountain Gate

Holy Spirit Control

Horse Gate

Back Into The Battle

East Gate

Focus On The Return of Christ.

Gate Miphkad

Place of Military Strategy

"Come, and let us build...that we be no more a reproach."

Nehemiah 2:12

2 Then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, **Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do;** and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

Ezra 4:3-5,

“But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, **Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build** unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,

5 And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.”

Unlike today, God’s remnant refused to allow the compromisers to have a part in the work of the Lord.

“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.”
(Proverbs 16:8)

God has a few large churches; however, for every large one He has ninety-nine small ones.



Human Reasoning Says Bigger Is Better

The Bible Says, “Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith” (Proverbs 15:16).

Psalm 119:141,

“I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.”

The devil would have us believe if we have a small church we are insignificant, unimportant. Nothing could be further from the truth if we “are small and despised,” because we have not forgotten God’s “precepts.”

Regardless of being “despised” for being small the psalmist said, “I will never forget thy precepts” (Psalm 119:93).

Precepts are God’s rules intended to regulate behaviour.

First Timothy 3:14,15,

“These things write I unto thee...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

God’s focus concerning behaviour in the local church is doctrine not numbers.

Be Encouraged!

To the faithful pastor and his people in the small church, God has a message for you.

Revelation 3:8,

“I know thy works...for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.”

