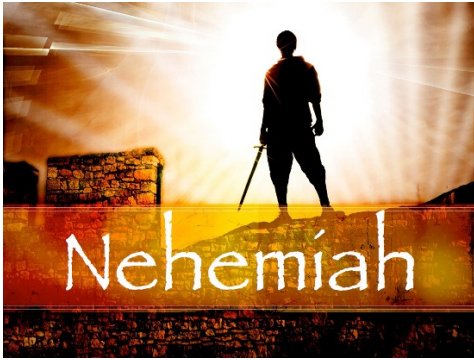


“Stay On The Wall”

Nehemiah 6:3



Nehemiah, the man, provides us with a tremendous example of spiritual sensitivity, compassionate and sacrificial service and extraordinary leadership. Nehemiah, the book, gives us a picture of business negotiations, construction and reconstruction analysis, organization and administration, and values-driven objectives. One of the great lessons gleaned from Nehemiah is his determination and tenacity to stay on task and true to his calling.

Nehemiah focused on the opportunity and rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem in 52 days (6:15). Two big questions surface from this text (6:3) and its' context. One “WHAT COMPELS US TO LEAVE THE WALL?” and two,

“WHY SHOULD WE STAY ON THE WALL?”

I. WHAT COMPELS US TO LEAVE THE WALL? (i.e. leave the ministry) (Similar temptations faced by Jesus to forfeit His role. cf. Matthew 4)

- A. The INTRIGUE (scheme) OF THE WORLD can get us off the wall.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 1:11 “Now I was the cupbearer to the king” (Artaxerxes 1, King of Persia).
- B. The ENTICEMENT (arouse hope or desire) OF THE FLESH can get us off the wall.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 2:19 “they mocked us and despised us” Nehemiah 5:14 “neither I nor my kinsmen have eaten the governor’s food allowance.”
- C. The INFLUENCE (power to sway) OF THE DEVIL, can get us off the wall.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 4:11 “Our enemies said...we will come among them, kill them and put a stop to the work.”

II. WHY SHOULD WE STAY ON THE WALL? (stay in the ministry) (Similar reasons why Jesus stayed on the cross.)

- A. We stay, because it is what God has CONVICTED US TO DO.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 1:4 “Now it came about when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”
- B. We stay, because it is what God has COMMISSIONED US TO DO.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 2:18 “I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me...Then they said, “Let us arise and build.” So they put their hands to the good work.”
- C. We stay because it is what God has CLEARED THE WAY FOR US TO DO.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 5:16 “I also applied myself to the work on this wall; we did not buy land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work.
- D. We stay, because it is what God has CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD DO.
 - ◆ With Nehemiah, Nehemiah 6:15 “So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elu (August-December)-actually September 21, 444 B.C.-in fifty-two days.

When we fully devote ourselves to God and His commission, we are “doing a great work.” Stay on the wall!
For the sake of our Savior, His Church, our families, our nation, STAY ON THE WALL!