

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Why Should I Come Down?

Part II

Las God called you to do a work for Him? Has He put within your heart a desire, a determination, to build and strengthen the body of Christ? Has He commissioned you? If He has, expect the enemy to attack.

Jesus gave us instructions on putting on the armor of God (*Eph 6.10-18*). This is much like when Nehemiah led the Israelites to rebuild the wall around the city of Jerusalem. Their armor was used defensively against the enemy; but they had one offensive weapon: the sword. Nehemiah had the Israelites carry their swords in one hand and build with the other (*Neh 4.17-18*). They were prepared for the enemy's attack; however, they **continued to work**, to do the ministry God had called them to do: rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was not deceived by the enemy even when the false prophets came – because his heart was fixed upon the Lord. Nehemiah knew the voice of the Lord so that when the enemy came in the name of the Lord, he knew the deceit. Nehemiah was able to continue working while responding: "Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart" (*Neh 6.8*).

Nehemiah had no desire to waste his time on that which was **not** of the Lord. I am reminded of John Knox of whom it is said that he feared God so much that he feared no man. When one's heart is fixed upon the Lord, they will **not** be deceived by "other" voices regardless of whose name in whom they say they are coming (*Mt 7.22*). What a gift of discernment! Oh, that today the gift of discernment would flow through the body of Christ.

Souls are at stake when we get distracted. We need godly leadership who like Nehemiah have a discerning spirit and give godly counsel when the enemy says, "Come down and talk with us; we just want to help you as you may be going down the wrong road; we're just concerned for you. Let us work together; we can learn from each other. . . ." (*Neh 6.1-3*).

Oh, that we would become proficient in using the one offensive weapon that the Lord has given to us: the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God in Christ Jesus!

Is the burden of the Lord strong enough on you for you to desire to go forth in the work that lies before us? Do you have an heart, a mind to work? Is your mind set – set with one focus: that of building the defenses of the body of Christ, of accomplishing God's calling on your life – as a member of the body of Christ? Singleness of heart of the body of Christ is an heart that sees only the finished work of what God has given us to do – and will bring to fruition His holy will.

How did Nehemiah and the people respond to the attack of the enemy? They prayed and continued working, "...for the people had a mind to work" (*Neh 4.6*).

Awaken! It is written in the Holy Bible,

**"Awake to righteousness, and sin not;
for some have not the knowledge of God:
I speak [this] to your shame"** (*I Co 15.34*).

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.
Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Nehemiah and the children of Israel knew they had been given a commission to rebuild, to complete the wall around Jerusalem. They worked together under the leadership of Nehemiah. They were not seeking to be the leader; they understood that the “body” must work together to accomplish the will of God. They understood they were servants of the Lord God Almighty and were to walk in obedience to Him. They had confidence in God knowing they had heard from Him. They were strengthened for the work; they were renewed and restored in the Lord. They knew that in their obedience to the Lord, He would go before them to guide them. Their trust was in the Lord (Pr 3.5, 6).

We must come to the realization that this life is not about us (Job 38), but about the Lord Jesus Christ and His glory, His Kingdom. Remember Matthew 6.33 makes it clear that, come what may, we are to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Each one in the body of Christ has been called for a specific ministry – the hand, the foot, the eye . . .(I Cor 12.14-27) Not everyone is called to stand behind the pulpit. There is a specific function for each of us to fulfill, a specific ministry (Dec, 2011, *Message*). We can accomplish this ministry only as we stay in the Word and seek the Lord’s face – and refuse to be distracted by the enemy.

When I look at the foundation that has been shaken (Oct, 2013, *Message*) and how we have spurned the Lord Jesus Christ, how we have gone another way, how we have not followed the **commands** of the Lord, I realize the wall is down. We, like the Israelites, are walking in our own willful way. But, then, how can the will of the Lord Jesus Christ be known when so many say they are **not** using the Sword of the Spirit, **not** reading the Holy Bible, the Word of the Lord!

How like the Israelites before captivity we are – putting aside our offensive weapon, the Word of the Lord God! How like the Israelites we are – seeking a goodly life **instead** of a godly life, a godly life in Christ Jesus.

Beware of those who “preach” one thing and blatantly live in sin, have no accountability in their lives, and profess to “preach” and/or be a “prophet” – believing they know all things. A lot of people want to “preach,” but do not want to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their lives.

There is no integrity in what they say, and most do not know the Word of God in Christ Jesus, but project they do with stories that have no substance from the Lord. The point being that you will not know – if you, yourself, do not know the Holy Word of the Lord Jesus Christ. Be in the Word daily and in prayer, listening to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then walk in obedience to Him.

Where, oh where, are those whom the Lord is calling today, whom He has commanded to rebuild the wall, has commanded to lead the body of Christ to rebuild the foundation that has been shaken. James 4.7 and 8 is a command!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *[your]* hands, *[ye]* sinners; and purify *[your]* hearts, *[ye]* **double minded.**

Quit you each one who knows the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. You who are truly a member of the body of Christ, RISE UP IN YOUR SPIRIT and say to the enemy with determination, **“Why Should I Come Down?”**

The Israelites held their ground against the enemy by having the sword in one hand as they worked with the other hand. They were a determined people. They had been in captivity for a long time and knew the heartache of living under the reign of a godless, heathen leader in a heathen land. They, however, sought the Lord in those days that they might be ready when they were freed from the horrendous experience under those who knew **not** the God of Israel.

The Israelites realized what a grave sin they had committed by intermarrying into the heathen nations and inviting them with their gods to their land (Ezr 9; 10). Look at the Israelites in the desert and their sinfulness (Ex 32.22-25)! Look at them in Jerusalem and how they were taken captive (Book of Daniel). They took their eyes off the Lord God and began walking that “broad road” that leads to destruction.

One has only to read history to see what happened in AD 70 – when once again there was great destruction of the temple of Jerusalem. We see where sin brought nations, as well as individuals, to their end. The Lord God’s warnings are to be feared. The Lord God is a God of love, but He is also a God of wrath because of such vileness as is seen today (Gen 19; Lk 17.29; Rom 11.22).

When the enemy comes in like a flood, it *seems* we all too often surrender to the will of the enemy and walk with him. Many walk with him thinking it is alright to walk a few steps with him – not realizing that just one step can lead to that “broad road” of destruction.

The Lord says, “Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly *[is]* ready, but the flesh is weak” (Mk 14.38).

The Israelites had to be strong in the Lord. They could not be discouraged or fearful. They were not to be dismayed (shattered). How many times did the Lord tell Joshua, “Be strong and of a good courage” and “Do not fear . . .”? (Jos 1.6-9, 18)

As we seek the Lord for strength and determination to “rebuild the wall,” the portion of work that God has laid on each of our hearts, may we be prepared to stand together, strong in the face of the enemy. May we each have the courage to say to enemy, **“Why Should I Come Down?”** (Neh 6.3)

“I *[am]* doing a great work, so that
I cannot come down:
why should the work cease,
whilst I leave it, and come down to you?”