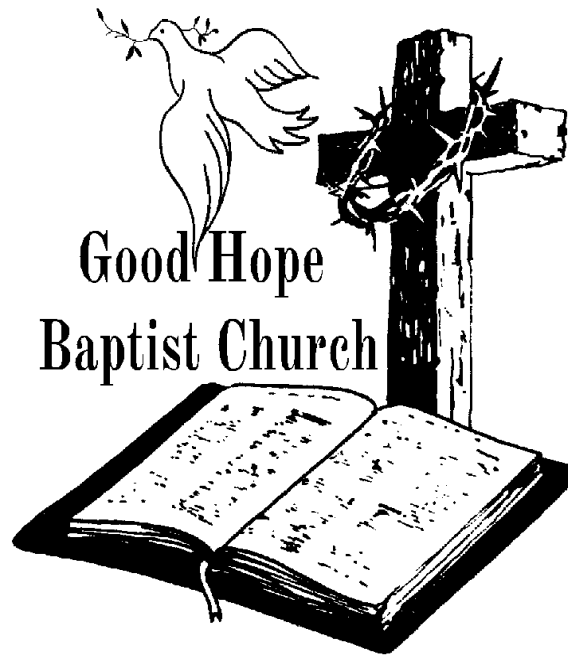


So Built We The Wall

Nehemiah 4:6



Living Together In The Love Of God

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FOCAL Read Together Nehemiah 4:6 ^(KJV) So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Though I'm introducing the sermon today with Nehemiah 4, we're actually going to be looking at Nehemiah Chapter Three. Our focal text gives us the *result*, but Chapter Three tells us how they achieved this result. You see, the walls of Jerusalem were fallen, and the city was in ruins. Bandits had come into the city and made merchandise of the people. If the walls were going to be rebuilt God's people had to work together, loving God and loving one another, else the nation would never stand.

In America today our walls have fallen. Morality and integrity are bywords. Man has exchanged love of God for love of ease and money. Families are disintegrating, and local Churches falling apart. What is the solution to what ails us? We need to rebuild the walls of our nation. Our text says "**so built WE the wall**". We cannot sit back and hope that someone else fixes what ails us. God's Church operating God's Way is God's method to change the world. He did this with His Old Testament Church in Nehemiah's day, and did it with the early Church in the Book of Acts. Beloved, God can use us to rebuild the walls that have fallen, but we must work!

1 We must work to put Christ first in our own lives. Rebuilding the fallen walls of our nation begins and ends with each one of us putting God first. Look at the first and last verse of Chapter Three:

Context Nehemiah 3:1 ^(KJV) Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate 32 And between the going up of the corner unto the sheep gate repaired the goldsmiths and the merchants.

The **sheep gate** was the opening in the wall where sheep and other animals were taken to the Temple to be sacrificed. From the earliest of Israel's history a **lamb without spot or blemish** was offered for each family and each person. This **lamb of God** was sacrificed, it's blood spilled, because the Lord said that *only by the covering of the Blood would the sins of anyone be forgiven*. On the day that Israel left Egyptian bondage and became a nation they **offered the lamb without spot or blemish to God (Exodus 12)**. Because the Blood of the Lamb was on the doorposts of their house Israel was freed from bondage, and became a mighty nation because they put God first.

What is the symbolism of the **sheep's gate and the shed Blood of the Lamb**? It is that God is holy, and we are all sinners. God alone is right, and we are all wrong. What God shows us in the sheep's gate was an Old Testament look toward the Coming of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Blood of an animal was just a teaching tool, something that God was showing His people. In order to be in a relationship with God **our sin must first be covered**. We could not cover our sin by our good works. Water from a poisoned well is not consumable, and works from a sinful life are not acceptable to God. So what did God do? God Himself made a way for us to be saved. The Bible says:

John 1:14 ^(KJV) And the **Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.**

The Word became flesh. The Son of God came as the Lamb of God to make payment for our sins.

The Scripture says that John the Baptist, seeing Christ, declared:

John 1:29 ^(KJV) **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

Jesus Christ is THE Lamb of God. Every lamb taken through the Sheep's Gate in the Old Testament Jerusalem pointed to THE Lamb of God. The Bible declares that:

John 3:14-17 ^(KJV) **And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.**

The Sheep's Gate cried out "**THE Lamb is Coming, THE Lamb is Coming**". God has made a way to draw a people to Himself. He has made a way that man can walk at peace with God. He has made a way that the fallen can

be lifted up, and the lost found. He has made a way that the sons of Adam can be raised from this earth toward Heaven, for **as many as have received Jesus, to them the Lord Jesus has given power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name (John 1:12).**

Before you can rebuild the walls of broken lives, broken families, broken communities, and broken nations you must turn to God and let Him **cover that wall of sin that separates you from Him.** We must put God first by *believing on and trusting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.*

Brother Paul told the Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:13-14 ^(HCSB) **But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah. 14 For He is our peace,**

Just as Israel was redeemed from Egypt by the shed Blood of the lamb without blemish, we who are saved are **redeemed by the shed Blood of Christ.** Brother Peter said:

1 Peter 1:18-19 ^(KJV) **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

Jesus Christ was **lifted up on the Cross of Calvary.** The day Jesus died Israel carried passover lambs through the Sheep's Gate to the Temple to be killed, but Jesus Christ **went through the Gate of the city to the terror of Golgotha.**

There He was crucified on a Cross between two thieves, and, as the writer of Hebrews said:

Hebrews 9:12 ^(KJV) **.... not by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood Jesus entered in once into the holy place {that Throneroom of God}, having obtained eternal redemption [for us].**

2 If we are going to rebuild the walls that have fallen, we must be **enthusiastic and persistent** in putting God first. Returning to Chapter Three we read:

Context **Nehemiah 3:1** ^(KJV) **Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests, and they builded the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up the doors of it; even unto the tower of Meah they sanctified it, unto the tower of Hananeel.**

The **High Priest and Priests** of Israel were chosen by God to lead His people. These leaders set a wonderful example. The Bible says that **"the High Priest rose up"**.

Word Study The words "rose up" (Hebrew קום, qûm, pronounced *koom*) actually mean **"to rouse oneself, to lift up, to approach with excitement"**.

a We should be excited because our God has promised us all victory through Jesus Christ! The leaders set the tone. They were *excited* about the work. We should be excited when God includes us in His plan. In the little video we watched **Nothing's Gonna Hold Me Down** the children were all excited - EXCITED - about serving the Lord. These children were all *orphaned, abandoned, or disadvantaged*, left alone and in the world to die. Did you know that just today around **29,000 children will perish due to preventable diseases including pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhea**. Over half of these deaths occur due to **malnutrition and lack of clean water**. Excited Christians banded together and, trusting the Lord, reached out and took in these homeless children. These children are now loved, given the freedom to live, and are being taught about salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. They sing "**Nothing's Gonna Get Me Down**" because they know what God has promised:

1 John 5:1-5 ^(KJV) **Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**

We were saved by the Blood of the Overcoming God. Nothing should get us down. Trust Him, believe in Him, and do good. Build the Wall!

b We should be excited because our Lord Jesus Christ is **THE Change Agent!** Jesus changed me when I believed in Him, and He can change anyone. The only way that we will rebuild the walls is by sharing Christ with others and seeing them change - one at a time - for the glory of God. If we believed this we would share Jesus more often with others.

Illustrate When John the Baptist was imprisoned for his faith he sent his men to Jesus with just one question: "**Are you the Messiah we are all waiting for, or is there another yet to come?**" Jesus didn't answer right away but let the disciples watch Him work all day long. At the end of the day Jesus called John's men to His side. He said:

Luke 7:22-23 ^(KJV) **.... Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. 23 And blessed is [he], whosoever shall not be offended in me.**

If Jesus touches you, you will be changed. Those **blind to God now see Him and call Him Father**. People who used to get so drunk and drugged up that they couldn't walk - **the lame now walk away from the bars and walk with Christ**. Those with terrible besetting sins like

homosexuality and other excesses have their leprosy cured. **Didn't the Angel announce in Matthew 1:21 that Christ would save His people FROM their sins?** Those who were once enemies of the Cross, mocking the Word of God are now attuned to it, for **the deaf hear**. And oh, Beloved, **the dead are raised and the poor lifted up** because of Jesus.

C **Knowing that Jesus is THE Change Agent I will not stop, but keep on going as we build the Wall.** Nehemiah's crew kept on working till the wall was finished, we who are Christ's must keep on working for our Lord. As you read through the chapter you'll see that when one section was complete these builders didn't say, **"I've done my part and I'm not doing any more"**. Absolutely not! We see that the priests, when they finished the Sheep's Gate, went on to the **Horse Gate**.

Context Nehemiah 3:1 ^(KJV) ... the **priests, and they builded the sheep gate** ...

Context Nehemiah 3:28 ^(KJV) From **above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his house**.

Not only that, but we see that a group called **the Tekoites** are mentioned twice. The Tekoites were simple common shepherds, but they worked on the **Fish Gate (the main gate for the Market - see verse 3)** as well as a **great tower outpost near the wall of Ophel (see verse 27)**.

Meshullam the son of Berechiah also worked on the

Fish Gate, and when he was through there he went over to **the Eastern Gate (verse 30)**. Do you see a pattern here? When a person finished his section in building the wall he didn't just stop and say "OK, I'm done!" No, but the people looked around where other help was needed, and *pitched in* whether it was their assigned spot or not. Why? Because while the walls are down *we are all in danger*. While the walls are down the Lord Whom we love is not being glorified!

This willingness to work toward the goal is a great pattern throughout this chapter. **Meremoth the son of Urijah** is seen working the **Fish Gate (vs 4)** and **the wall near the house of Eliashib the High Priest (vs 21)**.

Illustrate There was a dear lady at a Church I once pastored who was very knowledgeable of the Scripture, but she never exercised her spiritual gift. I asked her once why she didn't teach a Sunday School Class or train the children. She replied **"Brother David, I taught a class when I was younger, but now its time for others to step up and teach"**. How sad - and utterly inappropriate. While we have life we are to serve our Lord. Jesus promised us:

John 12:26 ^(HCSB) If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me. Where I am, there My servant also will be. If anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

We are to work - and keep on working - until Jesus calls us home. Not everyone can do everything but everyone can do something to build the walls. We must build the

walls.

3 We should expect opposition while we are building for the Lord, but never should we oppose ourselves.

a The walls will never be rebuilt if we do not work. We must work together following the Great Plan of our Lord and our God. You see this unity of purpose all throughout Nehemiah's crew. Phrases that show unity of purpose are:

"next unto him" (5 times, vs 2,8,10,12, & 17)

"next to them" (2 times, vs 2,13)

"next unto them" (5 times, vs 4,5,7,9,10)

It is obvious that the people are working together with one another, and are all pulling in the same direction. The Church of God is a family, and God intends us to be so tightly woven together that the Apostle Paul compared us to a human body. He wrote:

1 Corinthians 12:12, 14 ^(HCSB) For as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body ...

Every person is necessary. When you look at those who rebuilt the wall you see:

- Believers from different backgrounds (Tekoites, Gibeonites, Meronothites, etc)
- Believers from broken homes (verse 12, Shallum with his daughters)
- Believers from different professions (priests -

verse 1, goldsmiths - verse 31, doctors - verse 8, shepherds - verse 5

This is a beautiful picture, and how God wants His Church to be. Every believer is saved by Grace, and every saved believer is given a spiritual gift and something to do for the Lord. This is why the Apostle said of the Church:

Galatians 3:26-29 ^(KJV) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Just as Nehemiah's rescue team was diverse, but all saved believers working together for the Lord, so are we saved believers working together for the Lord. Listen Beloved, **If you are a golfer, you golf. If you are a surfer, you surf. If you are a Christian you walk with Christ and your fellow Christians. We're all in this battle together.** God's people bind together both with Christ *and* with one another to rebuild the broken walls, to save souls, families, communities, and countries.

I mentioned earlier that the **Tekoites, the shepherds, not only built their section but worked on another section.** The Bible tells us, however,

Context **Nehemiah 3:5** ^(KJV) And next unto them the

Tekoites repaired; but their nobles put not their necks to the work of their Lord.

There's always somebody who feels they are "too noble" for the work of the Lord. If you are that somebody, what will you tell Jesus in the Day of Judgment? "Noble" and proud people do not impress the Lord. What impresses the Lord is those who work enthusiastically. The Bible says:

Colossians 3:23-24 ^(HCSB) **Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.**

b **There will be opposition to the work of God, but that's perfectly all right - Jesus told us all about it!** Jesus Christ had nothing but His life. He came into this world to lay that life down, to offer us who believe on Him **abundant and eternal life**. Once we have given ourselves to the Lord He calls us to a life of service. He promised us ...

Matthew 19:29 ^(HCSB) **And everyone who has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, children, or fields because of My name will receive 100 times more and will inherit eternal life.**

It was evident that Jesus expected His disciples - those saved by faith in Him - to lose much for His sake. Jesus warned:

Matthew 10:22 ^(HCSB) **You will be hated by everyone because of My name**

and

John 15:17-19 ^(HCSB) **This is what I command you: Love one another. 18 "If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.**

This is the true Gospel. The Christian is a person who is different. We follow a different Master, and walk a different Way. The world doesn't understand that it is a broken place without the Lord, and therefore - like a baby eating Gerber - sometimes it spits in our faces. But that's perfectly all right because we know that God's methods work. We know that the Word of God will prevail, and that the Gospel will change our society, though it scream and rail at us. God's Will will be done!

1 Corinthians 15:58 ^(HCSB) **Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

If God is in the work, the work is not in vain! If God is in the work, the work will be completed! It will turn around. It will get better. We build His Kingdom one soul at a time by sharing His Gospel. And glory to God, the Lord has given you and I an opportunity to be a part of His great work.

That is, **"If you belong to Jesus"**. The Bible tells us:

Romans 6:22-23 ^(KJV) But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You cannot work for your salvation, but you surely work after it. I heard a wonderful parable once. A tyrant called a blacksmith, and said **"Make me a chain a foot long"**. The blacksmith went off and a day later brought back the chain. The tyrant said, **"Make it twice as long"**. Again he worked, and returned, and the tyrant said, **"Make it longer still"**. All the while the blacksmith was paid no wage, but day after day the tyrant said **"Longer! Longer still!"** One day the blacksmith returned and the tyrant said, **"This is enough. Bind him hand and foot with this chain, and cast him into the furnace of fire from which he welded his own chain!"** Here are the wages for the chain. The wages are death. If you belong to Jesus you are called to love God, love one another, and build the wall. His wages are eternal life, and glorious life. If you belong to Satan you are bound by chains of sin, and that tyrant Satan keeps telling you **"Go and make it longer still! Longer still!"** If you do not belong to Jesus one day the chain you have been welding will be wrapped around you, and you will be bound hand and foot and cast into a Lake of Fire that burns forever. Such is the final resting place of the foolish who reject the Gospel of Salvation. Receive Him, Oh Receive Him while you can! Then build, in love build the wall, for the Kingdom of God is within we who believe. Amen!



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Good Hope
Baptist Church

Living Together in The Love of God

FOCAL Read Together Nehemiah 4:6 ^(KJV) So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

1 We must work to put Christ first in our own lives. Rebuilding the fallen walls of our nation begins and ends with _____.
Nehemiah 3:1, 32; Exodus 12; John 1:14; John 1:29; John 3:14-17; John 1:12; Ephesians 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:12

2 If we are going to rebuild the walls that have fallen, we must be _____
Nehemiah 3:1

Word Study The words "rose up" (Hebrew קום, qûm, pronounced *koom*) actually mean "to rouse oneself, to lift up, to approach with excitement".

a We should be excited because our God has promised us _____
1 John 5:1-5

b We should be excited because our Lord Jesus Christ is THE _____
Luke 7:22-23; Matthew 1:21

c Knowing that Jesus is THE Change Agent I will not stop, but _____
Nehemiah 3:1; Nehemiah 3:28; John 12:26

3 We should expect opposition while we are building for the Lord, but never should we _____

a The walls will never be rebuilt if _____
1 Corinthians 12:12, 14; Galatians 3:26-29; Nehemiah 3:5; Colossians 3:23-24

b There will be opposition to the work of God, but _____
Matthew 19:29; Matthew 10:22; John 15:17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Romans 6:22-23