

Scripture

Nehemiah 2:9-3:32

Summary

The book of Nehemiah continues in Chapter 2 and 3 to show us Nehemiah, and the people of Israel preparing to build and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and then actually doing the work. Nehemiah faces opposition from the local population, but is steadfast. He does not go to work immediately but takes time to survey the walls. At the right time, he rounds up the people of Israel, and inspire them to work. They work together, each playing their part, and completed the wall in

record time. In all of this, Nehemiah and the people recognised the hand of God behind it all, that He was the one orchestrating events and circumstances on behalf of His people. The building of walls of Jerusalem prefigures the building of God’s church, the gathering of His people, today. We too need to build, as the people of old did. However, we do not build brick and mortar, but rather, flesh and blood, spirit and soul.

Sermon in a sentence

We build God’s people together, because God is actively orchestrating history and is Himself building His people.

Main Points

- I. Build Divinely because God is building (2:8, 12, 18, 20)
- II. Build Wisely because God builds through people (2:9, 11-16, 17-20)
- III. Build Collectively because we each need to play our part (3:1-32)

Other Scriptures

Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-20; 1 Peter 2:5

Questions

1. What are some things in life you are working hard toward, to give you a sense of safety, security and significance? Career? Relationships? Finances? Share with the group.
2. Have you ever seen the church of God, as God’s means for giving you safety, security and significance?
3. In Nehemiah 2:9-20, can you trace the activity of God? What is God doing?
4. What do the people do in response to God’s activity?
5. In Nehemiah 3, note down some repeated words and phrases. What does that tell you about how the people worked? Make a list.
6. Compare that list to the way your group works. Where are you strong? Where are you weak?
7. What is it about the Gospel of Jesus Christ that gives you the motivation to serve others, and work together with God’s people, for God’s glory?

Think On This

Sometimes, the things we think will give us freedom actually enslave us, and things that we commit to, actually free us.

RHC Core Values

Gospel-Centredness – To have the gospel in the centre of our ministry, and for everything we do to find its root in the gospel.

Experiential Faith – To actively seek the modern day work of the Holy Spirit, expecting him to move in our midst in signs and wonders, and to lead us to the will of God.

Theological Depth – To pursue a deep and soul satisfying knowledge and understanding of God through the Bible.

Community on Mission – To recognise that we are not here for ourselves, but are on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.

City Renewal – To see the gospel change every aspect of the city we are living in by doing social justice, integrating our faith and work, and seeing the city renewed culturally, socially and spiritually for the glory of God.