

RIGHT STRATEGY IN WORKING TOGETHER

TEXT: *Nehemiah 3:28: From above the horse gate repaired the priests, every one over against his house.*

INTRODUCTION

“Every man over against his house” is the principle I want to recommend to you today as the best way to solve the problems of:

- *The breakdown of the home.*
- *The absenteeism from the House of the Lord.*
- *As the means of cleaning up the corrupt life of our modern city.*

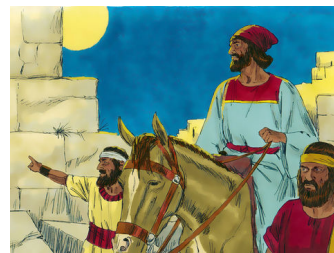
Nehemiah and his small band of exiles are come back to their homeland, only to find the capital city in ruins. Their first concern is to provide for their security and safety. So their first step was to secretly survey the city — unnoticed by anyone — to know the exact extent of their defenselessness.

Checking out the weaknesses of our homes, the church, and the morals of our community should be done without a whole lot of discussion and fanfare. We will be shocked as ministers to find out how few family altars are in existence, and how few have family devotions. The ignorance of the need renders us helpless in prescribing the remedy.

Within the reach of our churches are thousands of people who never come inside the House of God. They know as little about God and the Bible as a hog does about Sunday.

No wonder it is unsafe for a decent woman or child to walk our streets at night or — in some places — even in the daylight. The city is unfit for even brave people to venture out. Vice and crime are allowed to come into our homes via television and we, as Christians, are not restraining its flood of filth.

Nehemiah made his midnight ride amongst the ruins of the broken walls. Then he spoke to concerned people about the need and the plan of reconstruction. He knew that we must work together, and that many hands make the workload lighter. Responsible people and respectable workers were among the priests, no less goldsmiths, apothecaries (pharmacists), and merchants, and all worked with trowel and spade — even those whose hands were tender and unacquainted with this kind of manual labor.



The principles of division among the laborers is given in our text. Every one was to work near or next to his own home. It was a principle taught by God — that every man will work best or better when he sees his own roof or household that needs to be defended, and the loved ones inside knew they had someone who cared for them who was nearby to see after them.

I am taking these words and bringing them home to you. Your family needs to feel, dad and mother, that you care for them and that you are working for their safety, protection, and welfare.

This old world is rotten to the core, and there is a lot of evil going on right near us, of which so many are ignorant or blinded. If we do not pump this filthy water out of the ship, it will surely sink.



The beginning of our work of repair is to take the sad ride around our city and view the ruined humanity's night life. We must acquaint ourselves with the awful facts with the concern of the righteous. Then, with Christlike compassion, set out to repair the breaches.

If we are indifferent and close our eyes to the evils that are infiltrating our homes, churches, and cities, their blood will be on our hands. God said:

Proverbs 24:12: If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not He Who pondereth the heart consider it? and He Who keepeth thy soul, doth not He know it? and shall not He render to every man according to his works?

HOW ARE THE RUINS TO BE REPAIRED?

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has the sure remedy for the sin problem. Sin has only one solution: it's the precious Blood Atonement of Christ Jesus. The cause is complicated, but the cure is simple.

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Drink, lust, hate, stealing, lying, murder, selfishness, pride, and rebellion against authority are wrecking our nation.

My task is to get you hungry for REVIVAL and the restoring our love for God in our hearts one toward the other, and to work together in love and harmony as the Body of Christ. There is a solemn obligation laid on us as Christians to rescue the perishing and care for the dying. But first we must work in sight of our homes and make them stronger.

If the enemy comes within our households, he will tear down from inside. If the enemy gets within our ranks as a church because we have lowered the bars and standards so just anyone can join our church, then — like termites working in the understructure of a building — our church will collapse.



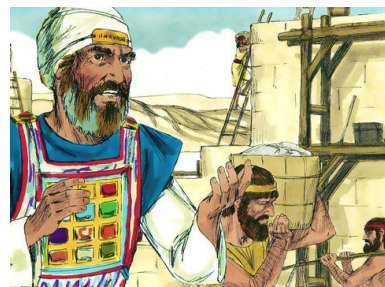
We need to get our families saved, sanctified, and filled with the Spirit of God. When the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Spirit, it will be easier to reach the community for the Lord. When that Love of God is placed in our hearts, it will produce new tastes and desires, will sweeten our disposition, and will purify our motives in our work for the Master.

When the home is purified, so will be the church, and then it will elevate the society out of the pollutions of sin. We are set out to repair the ruins near our homes as my text declared they did with much success in Nehemiah's day

The priests work with the nobles, the goldsmiths, apothecaries, and merchants, etc. We ministers need to work with our people. We are not too good or holy to get our hands dirty for the cause of Christ. It makes the work much easier if we are all united as one. There is no time left to pass the buck, and say: *"Somebody should do something, but don't do as I do, just do as I tell you."* No sir, that is not the way Nehemiah did the job of rebuilding. We need more workers and less shirkers.,

The price for success is sacrifice out of love for one another, and mostly for the Lord Jesus. Christ worked with His disciples and they worked with Him. The masses will be saved. If we work with real teamwork, they will see that we are concerned about their eternal safety.

NOTICE AGAIN that the work started with the priests who are the ministers of the Gospel in our day. We have the cure for the world's ills — the solution to the sin question — in our possession. This possession involves responsibility to one another. What would you think of a man who had a cure for some plague or pestilence that was raging in a city, and kept it for his own use, selfishly only for his family when people were dying by the hundreds all around him



Christ has saved us to serve.

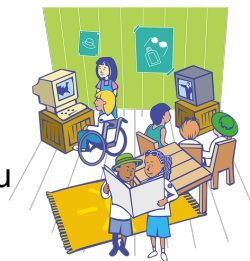
What about the Christian who has faith in the great Lord and His mighty sacrifice for sin who knows people are dying all around him without a cure for their disease of sin, but does nothing to help? I would not want to say they are not Christians, but God forbid that I should flatter them with the idea that they were not quite up to par.

Christ has saved us to serve. There is work to be done. He commanded us to go

into the highways and byways, and even to the hedges and compel them to come in. Why? — THAT MY (The Lord's) HOUSE MAY BE FULL.

We can do it. The job is great, but the cooperation of everyone will get it done in short order. It took 52 days to do the mammoth task of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. It would never have been accomplished without everyone in his place, working instead of shirking. There is nothing so convincing as a consistent Christian who shares his personal experience of how he met the Master, and how Jesus saved him, is keeping him, and continues to satisfy his every longing.

There is no other group of people who can get this job done for Jesus but us. There are no paid representatives to go on in our place as substitutes. You cannot buy for yourself a substitute in Christ's army as the mercenaries do in the army. May I ask you: Is there a person living near you or near you at work to whom you have ever spoken a word about Jesus Christ? Is there? If so, don't you think it is about time you began?



I would come a little closer. Are there those in your own household, who eat at your table, who you do not know for sure that they are saved? Set yourself to the work to try to bring them to Christ and into the fold before the door of mercy closes. A cold heart won't win them, but a heart bathed in the love of Christ will.

I must close with a reference from:

1 Corinthians 3:6-15:

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God Who giveth the increase.

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

10 According to the Grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

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.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall

receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Use whatever tools you have, whatever is handiest, and build for God whatever is nearest you. The gaps in the defenses need to be plugged up, for the floods of wickedness are fast approaching and are bent on destroying all we hold near and dear. The breaches must be stopped up as the enemy is coming in like a flood.



Begin working for Jesus at home where they know you. Or, is your testimony so ineffective by sorry living that they will not believe you?

Some want to go out to be a missionary in Mexico, South America, or Africa, but they never have won a soul at home. That just doesn't add up.

Acts 1:8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, [that's at home] and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

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