



Working Toward The Right Thing (Part 3) (What Are You Trying To Accomplish?)

November 9-10, 2019

Series Summary:

1. Be **Clear** About Your Work (What is **your** job?)

- **Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NKJV)**: Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

2. Learn **How** to Work (How do **you** do **your** job?)

3. Know **What** You Should Be Working Toward (**What** are you working toward?)

Note: Nehemiah was building a wall; what are you building?

- **Nehemiah 2:4**: Then the king said to me, "What do you request? **“So, I prayed to the God of heaven.**
5 And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you **send me** to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it."

4. Know **Who** You Should Be Working With (Next week)

I. Nehemiah's Approach to Work

1. **Nehemiah Listens and Learns**: (He personally investigates and comes to an informed opinion)

- **Nehemiah 2:11–20 (NKJV)**: So I came to Jerusalem and was there three days. 12 Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me; **I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do** at Jerusalem; nor was there any animal with me, except the one on which I rode. 13 And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. 14 Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal under me to pass.

2. **Nehemiah Plans and Executes**: (He knows how to be quiet)

- 15 So I went up in the night by the valley, and viewed the wall; then I turned back and entered by the Valley Gate, and so returned. 16 And **the officials did not know where I had gone or what I had done**; 17 Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. **Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem**, that we may no longer be a reproach." 18 And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, "Let us rise up and build." Then they set their hands to this good work.



3. Nehemiah Ignores the Immature: (Some people you will never change)

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they laughed at us and despised us, and said, “What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?” 20 So I answered them, and said to them, “**The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.**”

A. He put God in the right place in his life (He believed God would prosper him)

B. He put unfairly critical people in the right place in his life

Conclusion:

II. Four Things Peter Said We Should Work Toward

2 Peter 3:17–18 (NKJV): 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also **fall** from your own steadfastness, being **led away** with the error of the wicked; 18 but **grow** in the **grace** and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

1. **Stability** (He wanted to be consistent)

- He did not want them to fall (v17)
- He did not want them to be led away (v17)

2. **Growth** (He wanted to advance (v18)

3. **Grace** (He wanted God’s best for them) (v18)

4. **Knowledge** (He wanted them to be personally informed) (v18)

Next Time: Knowing Who You Should Work With