

## "Rise Up and Build"

### Int.

1. Aim: To show how the people in the days of Nehemiah were successful because they decided to rise up and build. Then make the applications for us here.
2. The Book of Nehemiah:
  - a. Chronologically this is the last of the historical books of O.T.
  - b. This is the end of the line as far as time is concerned.
  - c. The 70 years of captivity is over. Ezra the priest has returned and established their religion and rebuilt the temple.
  - d. 15 Years later Nehemiah returns and helps them rebuild the walls.
3. Text. Neh. 2:18 "...And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."
  - a. They were in need of having the wall rebuilt and the gates restored.
  - b. With the leadership of Nehemiah they decided to Rise up and Build.
  - c. In 52 days they had accomplished their task.
4. There are some obvious lessons that apply to us in our work within the church.

### Discussion

#### I. WE NEED MEMBERS WHO PRAY

- A. They were men of prayer
  1. Four times in the first six chapters of Nehemiah it is said that the leaders were in prayer.
  2. Neh. 1:4 "And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,"

3. Neh. 2:4 "Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven."
4. Neh. 4:4 "Hear, O our God; for we are despised: and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them for a prey in the land of captivity:"
5. Neh. 6:9 "For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands."

B. We need MEMBERS who are great people of prayer

1. They will seek God's wisdom - Jas. 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
2. They desire God's help in the work of the church.
3. We need to pray as though everything depends on God and work as though everything depends on us.

C. If we are people of prayer then we can rise up and build!

## **II. DON'T COMPROMISE**

- A. Nehemiah would never compromise with the enemy
1. Neh. 6:1-4 "Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) 2. That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. 3. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, 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? 4. Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner."
  2. The enemies of Nehemiah wanted him to stop his work and come down and talk with them. They wanted to have a "unity meeting."
  3. He said: "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?" Neh. 6:3
- B. Today we must continue to rise up and build and never compromise.
1. There is no need to stop the work and get involved in something else.
  2. We have a great work to do. We must not cease in that great work.
  3. We are to go with the gospel to every creature. We don't have time to waste compromising with the enemy of the church.
    - a. False teachers are everywhere
    - b. The devil is always trying to sidetrack us with the ways of the world.
    - c. He would accept a compromise with us
  4. But God Will Not accept a compromise.

### III. WE MUST BE PERSISTENT IN THE GOOD WORK

- A. Neh. 4:23 "So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing."
1. They labored from "the rising of the morning till the stars appeared." 4:21
  2. They stayed so close to their work that they did not take off their clothes day or night.
  3. They could not fully relax until the task was finished.
  4. They were always ready for action; either to work or defend against the enemy.
- B. We must be persistent in the work of the church
1. Work for the night is coming - John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."
    - a. The opportunity is now
    - b. Night - time when we cannot work
  2. We have too many saints on vacation. - spiritual vacation - lukewarm, indifferent
  3. Some who are professing to be Christians will not do any work.
  4. In order for us to rise up and build we must be a people willing to keep on keeping on with the work of the church.
  5. We must go forward and never rest at ease in zion.
  6. 1 Pet. 5:8 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
  7. RISE UP AND BUILD

## **CONCLUSION**

1. We can rise up and build
2. The People of Israel had been back in the land for about 100 years. They had put off the job of rebuilding the walls. But when they decided to rise up and build it only took them 52 days to get the job completed.
3. When the wall was completed
  - a. Nehemiah took steps to have the city fully inhabited (6:15-7:73),
  - b. He arranged for Ezra to read the law so that the people could mold their lives by it (8:1-18).
  - c. He and the nation confessed the national sins, sought God's forgiveness, and set their seal to a renewed covenant with God (9:1-10:39).
  - d. People were brought into the city, arrangements made for the worship, and the walls were dedicated (11:1-12:47).
4. Brethren we have to rise up and build in order for the church to grow.
  - a. We must visit - Outreach, personal
  - b. We must teach - find the ones who are interested
  - c. We must be friendly and hospitable - at services, community
  - d. We must practice benevolence - good works to all people
  - e. We must be good examples - Mt. 5:16
5. Romans 8:31 "...If God be for us, who can be against us?"
6. Neh. 6:15-16 "So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days. 16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God."

7. Will You do your part?

8. The key is found in Neh. 4:6 "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."

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Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
evanscoc@bellsouth.net  
[www.evansgachurchofchrist.org](http://www.evansgachurchofchrist.org)