

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

Nehemiah 2:11-18

Nehemiah 2:11-18

- “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. 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; I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, or the others who did the work. 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.’”

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- All of us admire people with strong faith, active in their work, content, unshaken by trouble, eager to go to be busy
 - Phil. 3:12-14 - “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- But what does it take to become as interested in the Lord’s work as Nehemiah and the apostle Paul?
- The levels of interest, zeal, and dedication among Christians often varies widely.

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- Some are filled with zeal
 - Attending services regularly
 - Willing to make sacrifices
 - Studying the Bible diligently
 - Teaching and inviting others to the Lord

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- Some are filled with zeal
 - 1Thes. 1:2-3 - “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father”
 - 2Thes. 1:3-4 - “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, 4 so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure”

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- Others are marginal
 - Attend services erratically, frequently making excuses
 - Give leftover time and offerings to the Lord
 - Neglect opportunities to read study
 - Do very little work, seldom involved in any activities, whether in services or in social gatherings
 - Rev. 3:15-16 - “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- Some even become cold, forsaking the Lord
 - Cease attending the services of the church
 - Secular and selfish with their time and money
 - Bible collects dust from lack of use
 - Embarrassed by the church and the Gospel of Christ
 - 2Tim. 4:10 - “For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...”

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- What does it take to keep a high level of interest in the Lord's work over the long term?
 - Col. 1:9-10 - “For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may...
 - **be filled with the knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may...
 - **walk worthy of the Lord**, fully pleasing Him...
 - **being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God”

Knowledge

- Knowledge of God's will increases interest in it
 - Col. 1:6 - “Which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth”
 - Psalm 119:111,162,164 - “Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they are the rejoicing of my heart... 162 I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure... 164 Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous judgments.”

Knowledge

- Obtaining the level of knowledge that stimulates interest requires diligence
 - Heb. 5:12 - “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”
 - 1Peter 2:1-2 - “Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”

Knowledge

- Psalm 119:15-16 - “I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”
- Psalm 119:97-104 - “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98 You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts. 101 I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.”

Participation

- Participation in God's work increases interest
 - John 17:13 - “But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”
 - James 1:25 - “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”
 - Psalm 119:1-2 - “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, Who walk in the law of the LORD! 2 Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!”

Participation

- When it comes to being a Christian, there are those who got game, and those who talk a lot about the game they got
 - Matt. 7:24-27 - “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

Participation

- James 1:22-24 - “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.”
- 1Cor. 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

Success

- Success in God's work increases interest
 - Col. 1:10 - “That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”
 - Bible study - learning the meaning of a passage makes you want to learn more passages
 - Personal work - seeing someone obey the gospel makes you want to convert more
 - Personal edification - to see those you have taught growing in the Lord produces great joy

Success

- 3John 3-4 - “For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”
 - Watching the children go to class
 - Teaching the high school class

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- We will not be alone in our efforts; God will work with us
 - Col. 1:11 - “Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy”
 - Phil. 2:12-13 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

“Let Us Rise Up And Rebuild”

- We can be thankful and confident that God has qualified us to receive the rewards to come
 - Col. 1:12 - “Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”