“A Mind To Work”

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday March 3rd, 2019

Text: Neh. 4:6 (Col. 3:23-24)

### Intro

1. *II Tim. 2:3-4; 4:6-8; I Tim. 6:12; Jude 3:* Soldiers of Christ are to fight, finish the course, and keep the faith, while soldiering on to please the Enlister by sharing the gospel *(Mk. 16:15).*
2. A great modern illustration of working and fighting at same time is the U.S. Navy Seabees!
   1. Motto: “We Build, We Fight!”
   2. Logo: A “Fighting Bee” with tools in one set of hands and a machine gun in front two.
   3. *The King Bee: A Biography of Admiral Ben Moreell* chapter IX quotes Adm. Moreell *(1892-1978, founder of the Seabees)* saying, “To which generous tribute I would add that Nehemiah was the father of the first organized military force in recorded history whose function it was to build and fight. Therefore, he could be appropriately designated the patron saint of the Seabees, for he too, subscribed to the motto; Construimus, Batuimus; We Build, We Fight!”
3. A great example of working under adversity and getting the job done is Nehemiah! *(Rom. 15:4)*
4. After being in captivity for 70 years *(Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10)* the Jews were freed by Cyrus in 538 B.C. A remnant left under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua to go rebuild the temple *(completed in 516 B.C.)* and Jerusalem *(Ezra 1; 2).*
5. Nehemiah came about 94 years later *(444 B.C.)* to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls *(Neh. 2:1-5, 18)*
   1. Neh. 1:3; 2:13: Rubble of walls and the burned gates *(II Chr. 36:19)* were still visible.
   2. Neh. 2:4-9; 6:15: The king of Persia (Artaxerxes) paid for the wall and sent protection!
6. Nehemiah and the Jews faced much opposition:
   1. They were laughed at and scorned *(Neh. 2:19)*
   2. They were ridiculed *(Neh. 4:1-3)*
   3. They were planned to be attacked *(Neh. 4:11; 6:2)*
7. It wasn’t an easy task but they were successful because:
   1. Neh. 4:6: The people had a mind to work!
   2. They were willing workers! *(Overcame discouragement at the halfway point!)*
8. Great things were accomplished because “the people had a mind to work!”

#### The People Had a Mind to Work

* 1. **Need:** 
     1. Perceived need: Walls needed rebuilt
     2. Planned work: Laborers needed as well as guards for protection
     3. Pursued the plan: Labored with tool in one hand and weapon in other, guarded by night, worked by day (Neh. 4:12-23)
  2. **Objective:**
     1. Neh. 4:6, 14-16: To rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, and to protect the people!
     2. Neh. 4:22-23: He brought the people within the walls as it was being built to protect as guard by night and work as laborer by day.
  3. **Purpose:**
     1. The purpose for the rebuilding was for protection from outside enemies.
     2. Neh. 2:8, 18: Nehemiah revealed that God was with him in the building up of the walls (Completed it in 52 days – Neh. 6:15!).
     3. They put their “hands to the good work” and were pleasing to God.
  4. The work of the Lord will only get done when the people have a mind to work!

#### Saints Are to Have a Mind to Work

* 1. We are told by God to work – Saints need to see the need today!
     1. Mt. 20:1: The kingdom is a place for working (Eph. 2:10: Created for works)
     2. I Cor. 15:58: We are to always abound in the work of the Lord.
  2. **Need:**
     1. Physical:
        1. *Mt. 25:34-40:* Hungry, Thirsty, Stranger, Naked, Sick, Imprisoned
           1. Work to be done (The righteous see it and work to fill it)
        2. Js. 2:15-16: Not enough to see need, but to work to fill it (Mt. 10:42; I Jn. 3:17-18)
     2. Spiritual:
        1. II Cor. 4:6; II Tim. 2:24-26: Saints are to be able to teach the gospel to the lost! *(Mt. 28:18-20: “Go” & “Teach;” Acts 16:9-10: Macedonian vision – Paul perceived they needed the gospel preached to them!)*
        2. Phil. 2:14-16: We also teach by our influence!
  3. **Objective:**
     1. Jn. 9:4: Work till man can work no longer.
        1. We work with God as God’s partners. *(Note the “We” in Jn. 9:4)*
     2. Mt. 20:8: The laborers worked till the Master called them for their wages.
     3. II Cor. 5:9-11: Knowing the “fear of the Lord, we persuade men!”
     4. I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9: For all men to be saved and come to repentance!
  4. **Purpose:**
     1. Mt. 25:34: The reward of heaven, our eternal home with God.
     2. I Tim. 4:6-7, 10, 16: Our purpose is godliness for the hope of Heaven!
     3. Rev. 3:5: To those who overcome will be confessed by Christ to the Father and will be arrayed in white garments.
     4. The reward is why we endure the labor of life!
  5. Our motivation is the reward of heaven, given to those who are found faithful!

#### Specifics of the Work

* 1. The Scriptures instruct us on specific things we are to do – II Tim. 3:16-17:
     1. “Teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be complete (NKJ), equipped for every good work.”
  2. Further specifics:
     1. Mt. 28:18-20: Sharing the gospel and teaching new converts!
        1. II Tim. 2:2: Able to teach faithful brethren.
     2. Eph. 4:15-16: Edifying! (If we are all working our part!)
     3. Gal. 6:1: Restoring the fallen!
     4. I Thess. 5:14: Encouraging the discouraged!
     5. Js. 1:27: Helping saints in need! *(Js. 2:15-16; I Jn. 3:17-18)*
  3. There is work that we all can do!

## Conclusion

1. God knows the works (deeds) of His people!
   1. Nehemiah 3 is a meticulous accounting of the people involved in the rebuilding of the walls – showed accountability, and may have slowed the work to take such a list.
   2. Shows us God knows who is involved *(Rechabites: Jer. 35:18-19; Neh. 3:14)!*
   3. Jesus “knows” the deeds (NKJ: “works”) of His saints, both good (Rev. 2:2, 19; 3:8) and bad (Rev. 3:1, 15) – *Is your name recorded? (Rev. 20:11-12)*
2. The wall of Jerusalem was built in 52 days *(Neh. 6:15)* despite great opposition and adversity because “the people had a mind to work!”
3. Col. 3:23-24: “Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.” *Saints work with the tools & weapons God provides (Eph. 6:10-18).*
4. Great things can be accomplished by God’s people when saints do their “work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men!”
5. Saints need to have “a mind to work!”
6. If you are not a Christian, you have no reward and no hope. Repent and be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, remember the work to be done. Repent & be renewed!