

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

July 14, 2019

Issue 28

A Mind To Work by: Ronnie Scherffius

In about the year 536 B.C., Cyrus allowed Israel to return from their captivity and Zerubbabel and Jeshua led the nation back to their homeland. While not all of the people returned from the captivity, a faithful remnant returned with the purpose of rebuilding Jerusalem and the temple. A year later reconstruction on the temple began only to cease a few years later. In about 520 B.C., Haggai and Zechariah stirred up the people to begin rebuilding the temple and in 516 B.C., the rebuilding was completed. Still the city wall lie in ruins.

Finally, in about 444 B.C., ninety-two years after returning from captivity, Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem with a commission from King Artaxerxes to rebuild the wall. In a period of only fifty-two days the project was completed! (Neh. 5:15) How could such a daunting task be completed in such a short time? The answer is found in one of the most inspiring passages of the Old Testament: "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6).

We often make excuses for not being involved in the work of the local church: too busy; don't know how; not my thing; don't have that skill set; don't like the person in charge; tried that before and it won't work; a different way would be better; my advice wasn't taken so I am out; etc. Let's examine the example of the Israelites in rebuilding the wall to see what we can learn that might inspire us to be more engaged in building up the local church.

Note first that ***the people had a mind to work in the face of opposition***. From the beginning of the work Israel faced opposition: "But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?" (Neh. 2:19). Mocked and falsely charged with rebellion, Nehemiah and the people placed their hope in God and carried on with the work (Neh. 2:20). As the work progressed their adversaries emboldened themselves and actively sought to hinder the work (Neh. 4:7-8). Nevertheless, the work would not cease! Nehemiah and the people banded together to build the wall.

When doing the work of the church how often do we find ourselves being opposed? Sometimes the opposition is from without: Christians are drawn away by worldly enticements (2 Tim. 4:10). False teachers cause many to fall away (Pt. 2:1). At times we become so busy with temporal matters we let slip the most needful things (Lk. 10:41-42). Sadly, there are times when the opposition is from within. Disagreements over matters of judgment among good brethren often cause division and hindrances (Acts 15:36-39; Phil 4:2). A desire to have the preeminence among the brethren can be a great hindrance to the work (3 Jn. 9-10). Slothful brethren too lazy to do their part also can be sources of discouragement and hindrances (Lk. 9:62; Prov. 20:30-34). Another great opposition we often face are those brethren who seem to constantly put a negative spin in everything!

Judas showed such an attitude (Jn. 12:4-5) and his attitude spread to the other disciples (Mt. 26:8-9; Mk. 15:1-5).

In light of these things that cause opposition to the work of the church, how did the Israelites overcome their challenges and keep a working mindset? We will consider five key points next week!

They had a mind to work Collectively

They had a mind to work Individually

They had a mind to work Prayerfully

They had a mind to work Watchfully

They had a mind to work Compromisingly

The Changing And The Unchanging

Dan Flournoy

Lord, thou has been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God (Psalms 90:1-2).

Since we are creatures bound by time, the words “eternity” and “everlasting” are hard to grasp. We can think in terms of seconds or centuries, but beyond this our mind loses perspective. In this Psalm, mountains are representative of that which is stable and enduring. Yet God was before the mountains and will be after they are gone. All material things had a beginning and will end; however, God is from everlasting to everlasting.

In contrast to God’s eternal, unchanging nature, is the changing world in which we live.

“In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up: in the evening it is cut down, and withereth” (Psalms 90:7). We need to learn this basic truth: **All earthly things change!** Nations rise and fall. Political ideologies come and go. Scientific theories are revised constantly. Religious creeds are updated every few years. With the changing seasons Nature takes on the new and puts off the old. Death continually works its way in our world and our relationship to people and things change. We are reminded of the words in a great hymn: *“Change and decay in all around I see.*

Oh Thou who changes not, abide with me.”

Oh how we long for that dwelling-place that does not change! A home that is like our God, “eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5: 1). We wish we could grasp the meaning of “eternity” as we sing ‘*When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’ve first begun.*”

While the duration of eternity is beyond our ability to grasp, by faith we accept its reality. We feel the need amidst this changing scene for that which is permanent.

The answer to our soul’s deep longing is found in this glorious Psalm: *“Lord, thou has been our dwelling-place in all generations.* May we come to our God in faith and obedience to find our permanent abode. Remember the words of F.L. Eiland in his powerful hymn written to strengthen the failing faith of a Christian brother:

“Time is filled with swift transition -- Naught of earth unmoved can stand. Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God’s unchanging hand. Trust in Him who will not leave you, Whatsoever years may bring. If by earthly friends forsaken, Still more closely to Him cling. When your journey is completed, if to God you have been true, Fair and bright the home in glory, Your enraptured soul will view. Build your hopes on things eternal. Hold to God’s unchanging hand.”

As we travel through life in this turbulent and ever changing world, may we all the more trust in the Lord. Let us continue to live the sentiments of the grand old song by Carl von Weber:

“My Jesus, as Thou wilt-’ All shall be well with me; Each changing future scene I gladly trust with Thee: Straight to my home above I travel calmly on, And sing, in life or death My Lord, Thy will be done.’

Beltline Road Church of Christ News, Beltline Church of Christ Weekly Bulletin, August 15, 2000.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 14, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Don Lynn
Assist: BJ Davis, Curtis Scherffius, Pat Gooch

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Doug Jobes
P.M. Closing: Larry Kuckels

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Sun. P.M.: Jerry FitzSimmons
Wednesday: Larry Nuckels

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Patrick Hammack

Open/Close Building: Scherffius

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Dolan

BAPTISM

We rejoice in the baptism of Ronnie Swire last week. He has been studying with Lupe Escojido and Ronnie Scherffius. We pray that his walk with Christ will bear much fruit.

NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rita Davenport
205 Amberglow Court, Victoria, TX 77904
830-279-2458

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Carmen Alegria, mother of Bryant Siegel, who had leg surgery last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 14: Quarterly Men's Business Meeting @ 3pm

AREA EVENTS

July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp
Aug. 2-4: Discipleship University @ Dripping Springs
Aug. 4-9: Gospel meeting @ Riverside
Aug. 10: Adams Street Ladies' Day in Beeville
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Pat Davis (14); Clifton Rutherford (17)

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of July 7, 2019

Bible Class.....90
A.M. Worship.....125
P.M. Worship.....94
Wednesday Bible Study.....82

Offering \$4,256

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Acts 15—Acts 20



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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MidTown Church of Christ

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