

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

July 28, 2019

Issue 30

A Mind To Work (Conclusion)

by: Ronnie Scherffius

After returning to Jerusalem and surveying the ruins of the city Nehemiah informed the rulers of the people of God's providential hand being with him and of the king's gracious support. The response of the rulers and the people's reaction must have greatly emboldened Nehemiah, "Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work." (Neh. 2:18) More encouraging than their verbal response was the people's attitude and actions: "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 noted last week that the people had a mind to work *collectively*. They were not divided by some well-meaning brethren insisting the work to be done their way. Division did not rear its ugly head in the form of one seeking prominence and prestige. They did not allow slanderous divisive speech to cause division. They worked together!

Consider next that ***the people had a mind to work prayerfully***. In the face of opposition and conspiracy (Neh. 4:1-2), and being mocked and ridiculed (Neh. 4:3), Nehemiah cried out to the Almighty: "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: And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders" (Neh. 4:4-5). Nehemiah pleaded with God to look upon His people to behold their difficulties. He prayed to God to confound the enemy and to reward them for sin. Neither intimidated nor

turned from their purpose, Israel prayed to God and trusted in Him that their work would be profitable.

Worthy to note also is ***the mind of the people to work watchfully***. The determination of Nehemiah's and Israel's adversaries was great: "And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease" (Neh. 4:11). Though Nehemiah and the people were prayerful regarding their work and purpose to rebuild the wall, they were also watchful and readied themselves for the coming of the enemy: "Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows" (Neh. 4:13). Arming themselves to fight against the enemy did not demonstrate a lack of faith in prayer but a confident assurance that God would deliver them: "And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses...In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us." (Neh. 4:14, 20). Watch and pray! Such is the council we have received from God's inspired Word. Jesus admonished His disciples, "Take ye heed, ***watch and pray***: for ye know not when the time is" (Mk 13:33). Paul encouraged the Ephesians, "***Praying always*** with all prayer and suppli-

cation in the Spirit, **and watching thereunto** with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18); and to the saints at Colossee he would write, “**Continue in prayer, and watch** in the same with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2). The faithful returning remnant was able to rebuild the wall in such a short time because they had a mind to work both prayerfully and watchfully.

Finally, note that **the people had a mind to work compromisingly**. A combination of the enemy’s threats and the importance of the work caused the people to compromise. They did not compromise truth or God’s commands. They did not compromise the quality their work. But they were willing to compromise with one another the work and watch what needed to be done to guarantee safety and success: “And it came to pass from that time forth, that half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which built on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon...So we labored in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared” (Neh. 4:16-17, 21).

What an example! A people prayerful, watchful, and willing to compromise to fulfill the work of God! What is the end result of the work of such a people? “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). Do we have such a mind to work for the cause of Christ? Israel was building up a wall but we work to build up the kingdom of King Jesus. We know our enemies will not overcome us. We know we will be victorious in the end. Brethren, let us rise up and build. Let us have the mind to work together that God and our Savior might be glorified among men.

Don’t Miss The Privilege Of Worship

By: Neal Pollard

Yesterday, John and Carla Moore, Kathy, and I worshipped with the church of Christ in Nazareth. We have been there a few times, but there was something extremely special about yesterday. In attendance was Wissam Al-Aethawi, an Iraqi and Muslim-born brother in Christ whom I first met at Polishing the Pulpit. What was so special is that this man, who explained that he has been a believer for 20 years and a New Testament Christian for 10 years, was able to worship in his native Arabic tongue for the first time ever. Can you imagine being a child of God for a decade before you ever had the opportunity to sing, pray, or hear preaching in the language you were born and raised to know?

Every Lord’s Day, most of us have the privilege to worship God in our native tongue. In fact, such is probably an afterthought if a thought at all. I got the sense that brother Al-Aethawi would relish the idea of being able to worship in Arabic each week, and there’s no doubt he would not take it for granted. But do I appreciate that privilege? Does worshipping God mean so much to me that I prioritize it over everything else? When I am in attendance, do I pour my heart and soul into it? Do I let the words of the songs touch me, the prayers reach me, and the sermon change me? As I am able to stimulate the others to love and good deeds with words that come naturally to me, do I appreciate the blessing of fellowship felt before, during, and after worship?

What a shame if I let the glory of praising God seem so ordinary that I fail to treasure each service! What if we approached each time as if it was the first time we were able to worship God with the people of God? What a difference it would make to the energy and passion of worship, if each of us did that.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 28, 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: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Closing: Young Men

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Sun. P.M.: Young Men
Wednesday: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Kevin Sheeran

Open/Close Building: Scherffius

Sound System: Trenton Jenkins

Greeters: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Dolan

Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Classes will resume on September 10th. Please make plans to attend.

Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items only: Cake mixes, frostings, Cooking Spray. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway. The truck will be here to pick up between August 13-14.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Maddie Svec, daughter of a friend of Brant and Anna Jacobs, who is having neurological complications. Benjamin Bryson, son of Dennis and Sandy Bryson, who will be having ear surgery soon for a serious infection.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 1: Area wide teen summer series @ Beeville. Meet at the building at 5:30pm
Aug. 10: GEMS meeting
Aug. 11: Jr/Sr. High devotional
Sept. 10: Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Class
Midtown's Fall Gospel Meeting—Nov. 10-13 with Jason Rollo.

AREA EVENTS

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: Ashton Barton (30); Bryce Dolan (31)

Happy Anniversary: Tam & Pam Archer (28)

Wednesday Adult Summer Series Update: Tom Pitchford will be teaching on August 21st and there will be congregational singing on August 28th.

The last day of the Youth Summer series is Aug. 28.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tissue
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 21, 2019

Bible Class.....96
A.M. Worship.....112
P.M. Worship.....73
Wednesday Bible Study.....68

Offering \$3,548

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

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

Romans 1-8



SUPPORTED WORKS

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

GO PAPERLESS!

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