

Nehemiah 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."

When reading the scriptures, it's always important to consider the context before interpreting the passage. In the verse previously cited, we read about the people in Nehemiah's day who had a "mind to work." Their mind to work was not, by any means, to accomplish eternal salvation for themselves, their families or friends. The Bible is perfectly clear that no work of our own will ever save one from eternal punishment. Paul says in Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done..." The work of Nehemiah chapter 4 was done by the children of Israel on the walls of Jerusalem that they may please the Lord, and have a place to live in peace worshipping God. We too, in the year 2016, have much work that needs to be done. Let us consider:

(1) Our homes! (a) The Lord instituted marriage and the home in Genesis chapter 2. Marriage is a wonderful thing and the Bible says "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD." But no marriage is a strong marriage without work, and this is a work we all could improve in. (b) The Lord gives us children. Psalms 127:3 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." But children require training. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train up a child in the way he should go", and that training will require us to work.

(2) The Church! At the present time, I am 47 years old. I have been taken to or have attended Church nearly every Sunday of my life. I cannot ever remember going to the House of the Lord and not seeing something that needed to be done. Whether we are thinking about the building or the Church body itself, there is always work, both material and spiritual, that needs to be attended to.

(3) Our own lives! If we are honest with ourselves and others, we all have areas in which we need to improve. I love the verse in Joshua 13:1 which reads, "Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." Even though Joshua was an old man and had been possessing the land of Canaan for years, he still had much to do. In like manner, we the children of God, will always have much more to do than that which has been done. Brothers and sisters, the work is before us, and the opposition is around us. Will we be found idly standing by watching things fall apart, or will we labor to do our part to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and to edify our fellow children of promise? Our children need us to be their example; the Church needs our faithfulness; and our nation desperately needs more Godly people. Are we to go the way of the world or stand up and say "but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). Amen!

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