Building for the Lord  
Neh. 2:17-20

Introduction:
   A. Nehemiah finds the beloved city of his fathers in ruins.
      1. Had been destroyed about 150 years before by Babylon.
      2. Was still in ruins about 100 years after the return from captivity.
   B. Nehemiah rallies the people to rise up and rebuild the wall.
      1. They finished it ahead of schedule in spite of many problems.
      2. They leave us an example for help us in building up any congregation.
   C. Nehemiah and his people some traits needed to build and rebuild for the Lord.

Discussion:
I. They Had a Working Mentality.
   A. Nehemiah was a great leader, but people had mind to work (4:6; 2:18).
   B. Leadership can do little unless people want to work.
      1. True of any organization
      2. Especially true of the church (cf. Eph. 4:16; Acts 8:4; 11:29).
   C. A working mentality will minimize many internal problems.
      1. Too mentally involved for petty strife and criticism.
      2. Too absorbed to notice most irritations of brethren.

II. They Had a Balanced Approach.
   A. They mixed weapons with work (4:16-17).
      1. Weapons without work would have left the wall in ruins.
      2. Work without weapons would made the work impossible.
   B. Churches are not built up by either weapons or work alone.
      1. Like a good lawn they need “weed and feed.”
      2. It takes a lot of planting, watering, teaching, exhorting, etc. (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:6; 2 Tim. 4:2-4).
      3. It also takes a lot of contending for the faith (Jude 3; Gal. 2:4-5, 11-14).

III. They Were Hindrance Resistant.
   A. Unhindered by ridicule from enemies (4:1-3).
   B. Unhindered by open threats to attack (4:7-8) — fortified themselves by keep working.
   C. Unhindered by subtle efforts to stop the work (6:1-4).
   D. Unhindered by unfounded rumors (6:5-9).
   E. Unhindered because they believed they were doing a great work (6:3)

IV. They Were Responsibility Conscious.
   A. “The people stood in their place” (8:7,8).
   B. Churches are built up each member standing in his place.
      1. The Leaders aware their place of responsibility and stand in it.
      2. Other members aware of their place responsibility and stand in it.
      3. When each does his share the whole body is built up (cf. Eph 4:16)

Conclusion:
   A. Let’s all get involved in greatest work in the work — building up God’s house.
   B. Let us follow the example of those who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.