“A Great Work”
Nehemiah 6:3

Introduction:
A. Nehemiah's great work was rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after Babylonian captivity.
   1. Ruined by Babylonian invasion. (606-586 B.C.)
   2. Rebuilt by Nehemiah, governor of Judea (444-432 B.C.) under Persian ruler.
   3. Completed work in 52 days. (6:15)
B. Our great work in building up the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11,12).
   1. In some cases building it up for the first time in a community.
   2. In other cases rebuilding it after it has been torn down.
   3. In either case we will be helped by studying why Nehemiah's great work succeeded.

Discussion:
I. They Were Doing A Great work Because It was God's Work. (Neh. 6:16)
   A. God authorized it. (Neh. 2:12; cf. 2 John 9-11).
   B. God fought for it. (Neh. 4:19, 20; Rom. 8:31-39).
II. They Believed They Were Doing A Great Work. (Neh. 6:3,4)
   A. Unless we believe that saving souls and building up church is great work, will do little.
   B. Unless we believe we are doing great work, will never be deeply involved.
   C. Unless we believe were doing a great work, will always find activities uninteresting.
   D. Unless we believe we are doing great work, will not sacrifice for it. (cf. Neh. 5:18; 2 Cor. 8).
III. They Refused To Be Hindered From The Work.
   A. Not by ridicule from their enemies. (Neh. 4:2-4).
      1. Will quit if listen too much to “what they are saying…”
      2. Will be defeated if we don't dismiss unjust criticism. (cf. Mt. 5:11)
   B. Not by compromise with their enemies. (Neh. 6:2-4)
      1. Too many willing fellowship sin and error by word and deed. (Cf. Eph. 5:11)
      2. Too many try to pacify the “enemies of cross” (cf Phil. 3:18; Gal. 2:5).
      3. Too many willing to accept any offer “to get together” (6:2)–Like bear and hunter.
IV. They Had A “Mind To Work”. (Neh. 4:2-3, 6, 23).
   A. Nehemiah was a good leader, but the “people had a mind to work”.
   B. The church needs good leadership, but:
      1. Little can be done unless the people have a mind to work.
      2. Church will not reach potential until all get involved. (Cf. Acts 8:4).
V. They Had A Will To Fight.
   A. They combined weapons with their work tools. (Neh. 4:16-18).
   B. We must build by speaking the truth in love. (Eph. 4:15, 16)
   C. We must also fight error. (2 Cor. 10:5,6; Jude 3; Tit. 2:15) - Some only fight fighting.
   D. We must weed and seed.

Conclusion:
A. Let us get involved in greatest work know to man - saving souls, our own and others.
B. Let us believe in the work we are doing - a great work - God's work.
C. Let us be busy working for truth and fighting the sin in or out of church.
   1. For truth and morality, against religious error or moral decay.
   2. Longsuffering when needed, but never compromising the truth.