

Building for God

Nehemiah 2:11-20

What a blessing it is to be able to come to you at this time each week. We're going to be looking in the book of Nehemiah in just a few moments. We're going to be looking in chapter 1 and chapter 2. Let me remind you that you can hear this program once again on our website, www.LRWM.org. You can download a transcript of this program absolutely free. Now, if you can't download that transcript, you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731, and I'll be glad to send to you a written transcript of this program absolutely free. Tune in this same time each week for this program, "It's a Good Life."

In Nehemiah chapter 1, we read of a man by the name of Nehemiah. Now, Nehemiah, it says here in verse 1 of chapter 1, that he was in the palace and he had a concern over Jerusalem, and he questioned some people who had come to him. And in verse 3, it says, *And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province [are] in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also [is] broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

Now, Nehemiah was a man of God, and when he heard these words, it says in verse 4, *I sat down and wept, and mourned [certain] days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven.* Now, in chapter 2, we read of what Nehemiah did. He didn't just sit back and say, "Oh, well, just, you know, what will be will be." No, he wanted to do something for the Lord. And in chapter 2 and verses 11 through 20, we see a narrative there as to what took place in the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem and in helping those people who were there to rise up and build.

Now, notice building a life for God. It takes certain things in order to build a life for God, and

in verse 17 of Nehemiah chapter 2, it says, *Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we [are] in, how Jerusalem [lieth] waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.*

Building a life for God...see the distress that I...that we are in. Now, the unsaved today need to see themselves as God sees them. You say, "Well, I'm not such a bad person. I've never trusted Jesus as my Savior, but, you know, I'm not such a bad person." Well, in Romans chapter 3 and verse 10, God says to you, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.*

Chapter 3 and verse 23 of Romans goes on and says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* It makes no difference who you are, whether you're rich or whether you're poor, whether you come from a good-looking family, whether you're a model, whether you are very good looking, it makes no difference who you are or what you are or how you look. The Bible says you are a sinner. *There is none righteous, no, not one.* This is in the sight of God. Now, you may fool me and you may put on a good show, but you don't fool God. In order to build a life for God, you must be in God. You must be in the Lord Jesus Christ. It says there, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

And then we also see that, to build a life of God, the saved should recognize that Jesus is our advocate and that the saved person has that advocate with the Father who is the Lord Jesus Christ. In I John chapter 2 and verses 1 and 2, it says, *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of]*

the whole world. You need to understand today, as a Christian, if you've gotten away from the Lord, that you have an advocate with the Father.

He says, *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.* But if you do sin, if something happens in your life that throws you off, that takes you away from God in the sense of breaking your fellowship with Him, then you have an advocate, the Lord Jesus Christ. So the saved need to understand that they need to recognize that they have an advocate with the Father.

And then, in order to build a life for God, there needs to be a resolve to rise up and build. In verse 18 of chapter 2 of Nehemiah, the Bible says, *Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for [this] good [work].*

Now, in order to build a life for God, there needs to be a resolve to rise up and build. A lost sinner needs to do something about his lost condition. Notice with me in Mark chapter 10, verses 46 through 52: *And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples ...this is speaking of Jesus...and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging.* ⁴⁷*And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, [thou] Son of David, have mercy on me.* ⁴⁸*And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, [Thou] Son of David, have mercy on me.* ⁴⁹*And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.* ⁵⁰*And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.* ⁵¹*And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight.* ⁵²*And Jesus said*

unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

Now, I want you to notice a couple of things here about blind Bartimaeus. It says that he realized who Jesus was because he knew there was hope in Jesus. He cried out to Jesus. He said, *[Thou] Son of David, have mercy on me.* And then, he not only realized who Jesus was, but he did something about it. After Jesus called for him, it says in verse 50 of Mark chapter 10, *And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.*

We need to cast off those people who are unsaved. I have already done this, but if you've never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you need to cast off your robe of righteousness which is as filthy rags in the sight of God, according to the book of Isaiah. You need to cast off your good works, your goodness that you think is good enough to get you to heaven. You need to cast those things aside and say, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me." Get rid of that robe that you've given yourself, or the world has given you, but take the robe of righteousness that Jesus Christ is offering you today.

Not only do we see a resolve to rise up and build, in verse 18, and a resolve of blind Bartimaeus of receiving Jesus Christ in order to build a life for God, we understand...and need to understand that the saved person needs to recognize his backslidden condition.

In the book of Luke...and this is a familiar story to most people...in the book of Luke chapter 15, verses 17 through 22: *And when he came to himself....this is speaking of the prodigal son. It says there, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!* ¹⁸*I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,* ¹⁹*And*

am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. ²⁰*And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.* ²¹*And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.* ²²*But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put [it] on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on [his] feet.*

The saved person needs to recognize today the backslidden condition that they are in, in order to build a life for God. The prodigal son realized that he was in a condition that only he had control over at this point. He had already been saved, but he was away from the father, and as he came back to the father, the father saw him afar off and came running towards him. Now, God has never left you if you are backslidden today as a Christian. He's never left you. You left Him. You've never lost your salvation. You're in a backslidden condition where you cannot serve Him because your fellowship has been broken. You need to build a life for God today by turning about and turning back to the Lord and letting Him lead you in order to build a life for Him.

And notice something else in verse 19 of Nehemiah chapter 2. *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?* They started making fun of those individuals who were going to rise up and build.

Being saved in this life does not destroy Satan nor his works. In Job chapter 1, verses 6 through 12, you read how Satan came to Job, a man who was favored of God because he was a man who served God. And although he was good,

although Job had received God and received what God had for him by faith, the devil still attacked him. And we see, of course, in the end that Job's latter end was twice as good as it was in the beginning because he did not turn his back on God, but he served God. Satan brings opposition to the saved person, so don't think it odd or strange that Satan will attack you as a Christian.

Then, if you are not saved, you are Satan's servant. In John chapter 8, verses 31 through 34, it says, *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed;* ³²*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* ³³*They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?* ³⁴*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.* So, if you're not saved today, you're the servant of Satan.

And then, faith in God through His Son, Jesus, is the only way to build a life for God. In verse 20, it talks about these people who do not trust what Nehemiah was about to do, and only faith, we see, pleases God, Hebrews 11:6. There is no portion, nor right, nor memorial outside of Jesus Christ (Nehemiah 2:20). In John chapter 3 and verse 36, it says that, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.* God demands a separated life for His children—II Corinthians chapter 6 and verses 11 through 18. We need to understand today that, as children of God, we need to be serving Him. As unsaved individuals, you need to turn to Him today and receive Him as your Lord and Savior.

May I invite you to look at the website today, www.LRWM.org. Join me at this same time next week for "It's a Good Life."