

Ashland Church of Christ 2007
Spreading the Good News

“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS...” (MATTHEW 28:10)

Getting Out of the Comfort Zone — Work
A Mind to Work

Text: Nehemiah 4:6b

Key Text *Nehemiah 4:6-9, “So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.”*

Introduction:

- 1) All of us live in a comfort zone of sorts.
 - 2) Understand the context of Nehemiah (the wall needed to be built).
 - 3) The people had to get out of their comfort zones.
 - 4) We see some lessons about how to get out of the comfort zone.
-
- I. The example must be followed.
 - A. The pattern must be obeyed (1Peter 4:11).
 - B. The Bible is our authority for all that we do in religious matters (Colossians 3:17).
 - C. Remember what proper authority is not.
 - D. God’s design for church growth is clear (see 2Timothy 2:2).

E. You and I must teach others.

II. The enthusiasm must be present.

A. Part of making the church grow requires believing in the message we have.

B. The people of Nehemiah were able to accomplish so much because they had a genuine desire to do what is right.

C. Sometimes, it is not in the method but in the presenter of the message.

D. Historically, the church seems to grow the most when she is under persecution.

E. Comfort leads to apathy.

III. The effort must be there.

A. Some people tend to think that since it is God's will then God will do it for us.

B. This was not the case in Nehemiah's day nor was it in the case in the book of Acts.

C. If we want to grow, then we are going to have to put forth the effort:

1. Prayer alone is not enough.

2. Support alone is not enough.

3. Sending Bibles alone is not enough.

D. Further, the effort will not guarantee growth but neglect will guarantee dying.

E. Finally, if we have the right patten and the enthusiasm to work, there are benefits even if they are not numerical.

1. We grow (Hebrews 5:12-14).

2. The example is set.

3. We will be rewarded (Matthew 25:14-30).

Conclusion:

ARE WE PREPARED TO WORK?