

GOSPEL AUTHORITY IN THE ANCIENT GATES

“A Vision for Life and Family - the City of God”

(Nehemiah 3 and 4)

*“Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged and he jeered at the Jews. 2 And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, ‘What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heap of rubbish and burned ones at that?’ 3 Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him and he said, ‘Yes, what they are building - if a fox goes up on it he break down their stone wall!’ 4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. 5 Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders. 6 So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, **for the people had a mind to work.**” (Nehemiah 4:1-6)*

We have already taught on the **PRIORITY GATES**: The Sheep Gate, the Fish Gate and the Old Gate representing the establishment of salvation, evangelism and the foundational truths of God’s Word.

Now, let’s look at the next set of GATES on this journey toward Christ-likeness.

❖ **The Purity Gates** (Nehemiah 3)

- Humility - The Valley Gate (Nehemiah 3:13)

The Valley Gate was the 4th gate repaired and it speaks of “*humility before the Lord*”.

The road toward humility involves ...

- ▶ Embracing Humility as a Value (*James 3:13-18*)

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”
(*James 3:13-18*)

The road toward humility also involves ...

- ▶ Consistently Praying for Perspective (*Ephesians 1:17; Colossians 1:9-10*)

“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,” (*Ephesians 1:17*)

“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” (*Colossians 1:9-10*)

- ▶ Be Honest With Yourself
- ▶ Listen to Godly People Around You

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

The Valley Gate leads us to the next gate - the Dung Gate!

- Cleansing - The Dung Gate (*Nehemiah 3:14*)

The 5th gate repaired by Nehemiah was the Dung Gate! It speaks of the necessity for the believer to constantly examine his own life and to rid himself of un-confessed sins!

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

"Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God." (II Corinthians 7:1)

"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ." (Philippians 3:8)

▸ God's Desire for Purity

- Allow God to destroy everything in our lives that influences us to sin.
- We must live a life of surrender to Him withholding nothing

- Before we enter into the presence of God, we must first examine our hearts to see if we are worthy to face our holy God.

- We Must Desire Purity

- Refiners Fire

- ✓ Gold is purified until it reflects the one purifying it.
- ✓ The more we are cleansed, the more we reflect Jesus in our lives.
- ✓ The process may not be easy but it surely produces a good result.

- Deep Dive into the Word of God

"Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! (Ps 119:1)

- Avoid the Counsel of the Ungodly

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;" (Psalm 1:1)

- Remain in the Presence of God