

St. Peter's World Outreach Center
Encountering God's GREATNESS Together

2018 THE YEAR OF



Nehemiah

The “Fish Eyed Fool”

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (KJV)

17 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.

18 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.

19 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?

20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; **THEREFORE WE HIS SERVANTS WILL ARISE AND BUILD**: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

- “Ye see the distress that we are in...”
- “So they strengthened their hands for this good work”
- “they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said...”

I Corinthians 4:10-13 (NLT)

¹⁰ Our **DEDICATION TO CHRIST MAKES US LOOK LIKE FOOLS**, but you claim to be so wise in Christ! **WE ARE WEAK**, but you are so powerful! You are honored, **BUT WE ARE RIDICULED**. ¹¹ Even now **WE GO HUNGRY AND THIRSTY**, and **WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CLOTHES TO KEEP WARM**. We are **OFTEN BEATEN** and **HAVE NO HOME**. ¹² **WE WORK WEARILY WITH OUR OWN HANDS TO EARN OUR LIVING. WE BLESS THOSE WHO CURSE US. WE ARE PATIENT WITH THOSE WHO ABUSE US**. ¹³ **WE APPEAL GENTLY WHEN EVIL THINGS ARE SAID ABOUT US**. Yet **WE ARE TREATED LIKE THE WORLD'S GARBAGE, LIKE EVERYBODY'S TRASH**—right up to the present moment.

- “Our dedication to Christ makes us look like fools...”
- “We work wearily with our own hands to earn our living...”
- “We are patient with those who abuse us”

First-century Corinth was a haven for pride. People sought to increase their honor in the community by boasting of their accomplishments. Not surprisingly, the Corinthian Christians were caught up in this self-glorifying ethos, and began to boast of their spiritual attainments. This meant that they began to look down upon Paul, the founder of their church, because his life was so full of sacrifice, hardship, and deprivation.

(ethos- the characteristic spirit of a culture, era, or community as manifested in its beliefs and aspirations.)

“The High Calling” Theology of Work

Revelation 2:2-5

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

⁴ **NEVERTHELESS I HAVE SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEE, BECAUSE THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE.**

⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

- “I know thy works, and thy labour”
- “because thou hast left thy first love”

What is the “first love”?

Taken from “Wise Master Builder” 9-18-11 Bishop JC Hash

1 Corinthians 3:8 – 15...NKJV

- 8 Now HE WHO PLANTS AND HE WHO WATERS ARE ONE, and EACH ONE will receive his OWN REWARD ACCORDING TO HIS OWN LABOR.
- 9 For we are GOD’S FELLOW WORKERS; you are GOD’S FIELD, you are GOD’S BUILDING.
- 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, AS A WISE MASTER BUILDER I HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION, and another builds on it. But LET EACH ONE TAKE HEED HOW HE BUILDS ON IT.
- 11 For NO OTHER FOUNDATION can anyone lay than that which is laid, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.
- 12 Now if ANYONE BUILDS ON THIS FOUNDATION with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
- 13 EACH ONE’S WORK WILL BECOME CLEAR (MADE MANIFEST); for the Day will declare it, because IT WILL BE REVEALED BY FIRE; and the FIRE WILL TEST EACH ONE’S WORK, of what sort it is.
- 14 If anyone’s work which he has built on it ENDURES, HE WILL RECEIVE A REWARD.
- 15 IF ANYONE’S WORK IS BURNED, HE WILL SUFFER LOSS; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through FIRE.

- "...as a wise master builder..."
- Everyone's work will be tried by fire.
- "...everyone will receive his own reward according to his own labor..."

Hebrews 3:14...NKJV

For EVERY HOUSE is built by someone, but HE WHO BUILT ALL THINGS IS GOD.

Psalm 127:1...NKJV

Unless THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

- God is going to test the foundation of our works.

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