

“Built to Last” (Part 1 of 2)

Nehemiah 13:1-14

They had come a long way from Nehemiah 1:3 to where they were in chapter 12. God had enabled them to do more than they could have imagined!

After another setback, the people needed to make some decisions that would help the progress last long into the future.

How can we ensure that what we are doing will stand the test of time? What are the steps to take in order to make our lives/Church built to last?

1. CONTINUE IN GOD’S WORD (NEHEMIAH 13:1-3)

A. Hear – The importance of reading the Bible and hearing the Bible taught. (Verse 1)

- i. 1 Peter 2:2² *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby*
- ii. Matthew 4:4⁴ *But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”*

B. Understand – The importance of understanding what it says (Verses 1-2)

- i. Nehemiah 8:8 *They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.*
- ii. Psalms 119:130 *The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.*
- iii. Luke 24:27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

C. Apply – The importance of applying what you hear and understand (Verse 3)

- i. James 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*
- ii. Matthew 7:24 *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

2. CHOOSE GODLY LEADERS (NEHEMIAH 13:4-9)

A. Eliashib wasn’t a Godly leader. Godly leaders don’t compromise. (Verses 4-7)

B. Tobiah wasn't a Godly leader. Godly leaders don't consume. (Verse 5)

- i. *Nehemiah 2:10 But when ... Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel. Nehemiah 4:7-9 But when Sanballat and Tobiah...heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. 8 And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. 9 And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.*
- ii. *Acts 20:29-30 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*
- iii. *1 Peter 5:2² Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God.*
- iv. *Acts 20:33-34³³ "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. ³⁴ You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.*

C. Nehemiah was a Godly leader. Godly leaders have conviction (Verses 8-9)

- i. *John 2:15-17 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16 And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."*

3. CONTRIBUTE TO GOD'S WORK (NEHEMIAH 13:10-14)

A. God's work is accomplished when God's people contribute. (Verse 10)

B. Leaders should set the example (Verse 11)

C. They brought their contribution into the storehouse (Verse 12)

- i. *Malachi 3:10 Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.*

D. Ensure accountability (Verses 13)

E. It's all for the approval of God (Verse 14)

- i. Matthew 6:4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.