

“Making The Progress Permanent”

Nehemiah 7

The walls were built but the progress continues. We will have seasons of completion and confirmation BUT remember we will always be a work in progress. There is more work to do, and this will continue until we are home with the Lord.

John 9:4–5 ⁴ I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Philippians 3:12 ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

“Dad, I want to ask you a question,” said little Josh after his first day of Sunday School. “Of course,” said his Dad. “The teacher was reading the Bible, about the Children of Israel building the Temple, the Children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the Children of Israel making the sacrifices,” said Josh. “So what’s your question?” his Dad asked. “Well, didn’t the grown-ups do anything?!”

Here are three important principles in our lives to continue the progress.

YOUR CALLING / YOUR COMMUNITY / YOUR CONTRIBUTION

1. YOUR CALLING (NEHEMIAH 7:1-3)

A. Everyone has a calling, and we are all different. Listed here are gatekeepers, singers, Levites/priests, leaders, guards. (Verses 1-3)

- i. *1 Corinthians 12:4–7* There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. *5* There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. *6* And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. *7* But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:
- ii. *1 Peter 4:10–11* God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. *11* Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies...

B. Some are called to leadership. We need faithfulness and Godliness. (Verse 2)

- i. 1 Corinthians 4:2² Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.
- ii. Proverbs 20:6–7⁶ Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man? ⁷ The righteous man walks in his integrity...
- iii. “Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.” - Coach John Wooden
- iv. “Character is what you are in the dark” – DL Moody

C. You can start helping even when you don’t know your calling (Verse 3)

- i. Isaiah 6:8⁸ Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

2. YOUR COMMUNITY (NEHEMIAH 7:4-69)

A. God put it into my heart to gather the people (Verse 5)

- i. Hebrews 10:25²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

B. How do we truly be part of God’s people today? Not genealogy but JESUS! (Verses 61,64-65)

- i. John 1:12¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

3. YOUR CONTRIBUTION (NEHEMIAH 7:70-73)

A. Giving financially – The people gave willingly and according to their ability

- i. Ezra 2:68–69⁶⁸ Some of the heads of the fathers’ houses, when they came to the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem, offered freely for the house of God, to erect it in its place: ⁶⁹ According to their ability, they gave to the treasury for the work...
- ii. 2 Corinthians 9:7⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.
- iii. 1000 drahams = 9kg of gold (NZ\$519,000) // 20,000 drachmas=170kg gold (NZ9.7mil)
- iv. Mark 12:42–44⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. ⁴³ So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

B. Giving for eternity – Our contribution to God’s cause is never forgotten, and has eternal reward

- i. Matthew 6:19–21 ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

DISCOVER YOUR CALLING / CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY / GIVE YOUR CONTRIBUTION