



THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

Realize That God Loves You.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16).

The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory to God.” (Romans 3:23).

God’s Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

The Good News Is That Jesus Christ Paid for Our Sins.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8).

We Must Personally Pray and Call on Jesus Christ as Our Personal Saviour.

The Bible Says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* (Romans 10:13).

COLLEGIANS FOR CHRIST

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Nehemiah Stays Focused

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Memory Verse- James 1:19

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath”

The rebuilding of the walls is underway. Nehemiah has inspired the people to undertake the great work. Instantly, Nehemiah faces opposition. The work comes to a halt. How Nehemiah handled this opposition determined the caliber of his leadership. He quickly diagnosis the problem and provides a remedy.

Remember, the door of success swings on the hinge of opposition. It is not will you face opposition as a leader, but when you face opposition. You must be prepared to stand against all adversity and persevere towards the goal. Leaders will have to stand alone at times. Nothing about opposition is fun.

As we continue our journey through this book, Nehemiah faces more opposition. It is as though the enemy never sleeps. A person may think adversity is a sign of not being in God’s will. God never promised a life free of trials and opposition. God did promise to be with us through the adversity. Are you ready and able to handle opposition? Nehemiah is. Read Nehemiah 6:1-16. He is able to stay focused through anything.

Your
Thoughts



Think about it:

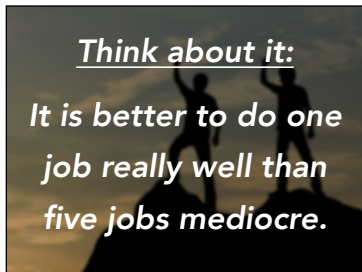
God never promised a
life free of trials
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Your Thoughts

Through Distractions (1-4)

Once Sanballet hears that the walls are being effectively rebuilt, he tries to distract Nehemiah. Sanballet tells Nehemiah, “*come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono.*” Distraction means a drawing away or separation. It is confusion from multiple objects crowding the mind and calling attention different ways.

Sanballet was trying to get Nehemiah’s eyes and mind off of the goal. He tries to take his attention away by inviting him to come for a meeting about 15 miles away from Jerusalem. The greatest word a leader can learn to use is “No”. There will be many opportunities that can take your time and energy. Many of these can be really great opportunities.



Nehemiah new how to keep his priorities in line. Sanballet urged and begged him four times. Each time he said no. Learn how to use this word. Devote your time and energy to what the priorities are in order to complete the goal. Don’t be easily distracted.

Through Fear (5-9)

The distraction plot did not work so Sanballet turned to intimidation. He wrongly accuses Nehemiah and attempts to get him scared. He accuses him of going against the king. Why would Sanballet try this? He wanted to get Nehemiah to react in anger towards him so he could accuse him. This would ruin his testimony and character and thus the workers would lose confidence in their leader. Our natural reaction to false accusations is to get angry and set things straight verbally. A leader must be, “*swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath*” (James 1:19).

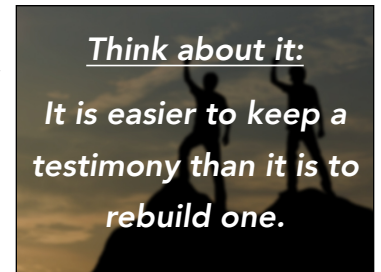
Your Thoughts

Sanballet wanted him to blow up and react in anger so he could accuse him. Nehemiah openly denies it and takes the matter to God in prayer. He does not waste his time and energy getting into a argument or debate.

Through Conspiracy (11-16)

All of Sanballet’s devices have not worked so he turns to an all-out conspiracy. He devises a secret plan with hired people to trick Nehemiah into hiding and breaking the law. He is trying to attack Nehemiah’s character. Sanballet wants so bad to destroy Nehemiah’s strong testimony before the people. If the people loose confidence in their leader, the work will stop. Nehemiah is a wise and discerning man. He knows instantly that the well thought of plan is a conspiracy by the enemy.

A leader must be discerning. Where do we get discernment? Read Proverbs 2:1-9 and Hebrews 5:13-14. Discernment comes from our personal exposure from God’s Word. It comes from God through the wisdom He gives to us through His Word.



A trait we keep seeing repeated in Nehemiah’s life is that he is not impulsive in his actions. Nehemiah takes time to look at each situation, pray, and think before he reacts. Reacting in the moment can get us in big trouble, especially for leaders. Nehemiah is a man of prayer. He continually seeks God as problems arise. He stays focused on the goal and does not let any distractions hinder the work.

How do you handle criticism, opposition, & distractions?