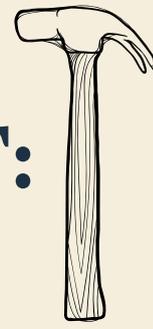




WORK TO THE GLORY OF CHRIST: NEHEMIAH



Nehemiah: A Kingdom Worker & Warrior

17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. **18** For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. (Nehemiah 4:17, 18 ESV)

BE DILIGENT



Nehemiah and the men and women of Jerusalem, who participated in the rebuilding of the wall were diligent [careful, committed] to ensure that the work of rebuilding the wall would be completed despite ridicule and threats from enemies. As you work to the glory of Christ, you must be diligent. You are to handle your work with care and be committed to seeing it through until completion. (Nehemiah 4:6, 15b, 21) When we work hard, we glorify God who created us for good works (Eph. 2:10), and to work as He works. Diligence also keeps us from slothfulness, which is very displeasing to the Lord and harmful to those around us.

BE VIGILANT

Nehemiah called for workers to be watchful both day and night to protect themselves, others, and the work of rebuilding the wall from enemies. (Nehemiah 4:9, 22) As believers, we must also remain vigilant and watchful as we work to keep ourselves, other members of the Body and the work of Christ Jesus safe from the attacks of our enemy, satan. We must hold tight to the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, being watchful to do honest work without shortcuts or schemes. We must rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom to receive God's blessing; not wisdom of the world for profit. Being vigilant and watchful as our Lord has commanded in the workplace to keep in step with the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:25) and therefore in step with Christ Jesus our Lord helps us to be in the world but remain not of the world.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR



Nehemiah did not use his position of authority to benefit himself while burdening those under him. Instead, he chose to take less to be a blessing and not a burden in his role as governor. (Nehemiah 5:9-11, 15) By considering others before himself, Nehemiah chose to love rather than have selfish gain. Nehemiah also ensured that every person who participated in the rebuilding of the wall was acknowledged personally for their hard work and sacrifice. (Nehemiah 3) As employees or employers, we want to acknowledge the hard work and sacrifice of those who work for and with us with great thanksgiving. This not only serves to encourage those around us, but it is an excellent way to love our neighbors. We must love those around us with selflessness and thankfulness.