



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 16:05:2012

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Study 29: VIGILANCE AND WATCHFULNESS

Nehemiah 7: 3,4

The appointed leaders are here assigned the responsibility of vigilantly watching over Jerusalem. Specification of duty for appointees is a Bible principle for all to emulate (Exodus 18:19,20; Matthew 28:18-20; Genesis 6:13-16; Hebrews 8:5). The importance of this cannot be over emphasized. The victories gained through hard work in troublous times can only be retained through vigilance and watchfulness in times of peace. Many have lost their victories and fallen from grace to grass through undue liberty and care-freeness in times of apparent safety. The wall has been completed and the gate set-up. **A wall without a gate could have still spelt doom for the nation, but an unattended gate is equally a serious source of danger. To leave the gates of our soul unattended is to grant the enemy a license to trample upon holy grounds.** Solomon the wise king saliently pointed out that "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls" (Proverbs 25:28).

1. THE COMMISSION TO WATCH:

Nehemiah 7:3,4; 2 Samuel 10:9-12; Ezekiel 3:17-21; Acts 20:28-31; Proverbs 4:23; 25:28; Matthew 26:41; 1 Peter 5:8.

Nehemiah instructed the rulers to watch over Jerusalem and to appoint others to assist. Apparently some of the returned exiles and volunteer workers were not resident at Jerusalem. Although "the people were few therein, and the houses were not built", yet Nehemiah built a large city by faith in God's promises that it will be re-inhabited. **Faith builds on the promises of God rather than on present circumstances** (Zechariah 2:1-5). At the completion of the wall the non-resident volunteer workers would want to return to their property outside Jerusalem. If the just completed wall is left without watchers it would still be open to danger. If the victories gained, the spiritual heights attained, the spiritual experiences enjoyed and the converts won are to be retained and established in faith then the believers must heed the command to watch both over their personal lives and of those they are in charge of. In Isaiah 62:6-7, God gave a commission to watch "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: **ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth**".

2. THE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE WATCHERS:

Nehemiah 7:3; Proverbs 4:23,26; Hebrews 12:15-17; 1 Corinthians 10:12; 16:13; Proverbs 25:28; Deuteronomy 4:9; Psalms 39:1; Acts 20:28-31; 2 Timothy 4:5; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Ephesians 6:10-18

The appointed leaders were to take charge of watching over of the entire city for the welfare of the nation. Specific details such as supervision of the opening and closing

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of gates; the appointment of others to watch the gates by shift, and the commissioning of the few residents to watch over the wall by their houses were not glossed over. Thus, both the entire wall and the gates received equal attention. In the same vein the entire life of the believer and the heart ought to receive equal attention. Our standing with God, the discipline, direction and focus of our eyes, the control of our emotions, the screening of our thoughts; the subjection of fleshly desires; the checking of our languages; the monitoring of actions, attitudes and manners; and the proper use of other members of our bodies are some of the various areas we need to constantly watch over. It takes the whole armour of spiritual warfare to maintain successful vigilance.

3. THE COMMITMENT OF THE WATCHERS

Nehemiah 7:2-4; Psalms 39:1-4; Job 31:1,2; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Proverbs 25:28; Romans 12:1,2

The qualities of faithfulness and fear of God that Hanani and Hananiah had would have helped them to diligently execute their duties routinely to the very details specified. They must have sought for as well as inspired such qualities in those they appointed to assist in the work. These qualities are essential to commitment. The fact that enemies did not overcome them or penetrate the city despite their little number is a testimony to their commitment. ***It is not the quantity but quality that counts. It took just twelve committed disciples to blaze the gospel message throughout the world. It took four committed Hebrew slaves to bring revival to Babylon. Genuine commitment of members will make the church to grow and excel despite surrounding circumstances.*** DARE TO BE A DANIEL!