

The Enemy Behind!

Introduction

Text: Nehemiah 5:1-11

- 1. The faithful Christian is in a constant fight with his arch enemy Satan.**
 - A. The Christian needs all the support he can get in this fight.**
 - 1) Brethren must help each other in this burden.**

Galatians 6:2 **Bear one another's burdens**, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

- B. The work of Christ cannot be done alone. It takes a working together of all to succeed as we should.**
- 2. Nehemiah in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem needed all the help possible to succeed. (445 B.C.)**
 - A. His enemies were on the outside, but he found also that he had enemies behind him.**
 - 1) Those who should have been helping Nehemiah and those faithfully working with him were actually working against him.**
- 3. Many times today faithful members find that there are enemies behind them.**
 - A. The work cannot prosper as it should as long as the enemies are present!**

Enemies: Worldly Brethren

1. Worldly brethren are a bad influence

1 Corinthians 5:6-7 Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2. Worldly brethren mind earthly things

Philippians 3:17-19

A. They are not interested in spiritual things (Demas).

2 Timothy 4:10 for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.....

- 1) The church's work in promoting the gospel is greatly damaged by the "Christians" who are worldly!**

Enemies: Active Opposition

- 1. These are the brethren that talk down the work. Instead of talking for the faithful Christian and building him up, this enemy hurts him.**
- 2. Grumblers talk about what the faithful are trying to do. Like Israel**

Exodus 14:11 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?"

- A. Individuals who always seem to look at the negative instead of the positive.**

1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge — by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith....

Enemies: Shirkers

1. Brethren who leave all the work to others.

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

1 Corinthians 3:8-9 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

James 1:25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

2. Shirkers sit back and watch others do the work.

A. They hinder the cause of Christ and are enemies in His work.

1) However, the faithful must continue to press on!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Mark 13:34 It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

Revelation 22:4 They shall see His face....

Enemies: Stingy Brethren

- 1. Some will sacrifice a great deal to carry on the work**
2 Corinthians 8:2-3
2 Corinthians 9:6-13
- 2. The givers have an enemy behind them – those who will not give to help carry on the work.**
- 3. They will not give of their time, talent, or money.**

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

- A. We all need to evaluate ourselves from time to time to make sure that we are truly giving of our time, talent, and money for the Lord's work.**

Conclusion

- 1. May we continue to fight Satan and also the enemies who are behind us. We must always strive to work for the cause of Christ.**
 - A. "Enemies" – Those who hinder the work need to repent.**

