**Building for the Lord**

**Nehemiah 4:6**

**Introduction:**

I. Throughout history men have been building for the Lord, some acceptable, some not.

 II. Let us keep in mind that God really does not need our help in any of this

A. He spoke the world into existence, however, (Jas. 2:20) ***“But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?”***

 III. Let us consider what is at the core of successfully building for the Lord

A. Acceptable to Him and fruit bearing (results bearing)

**Discussion:**

 **I. Noah and the Ark (Gen. 6:13-22)**

A. We do not know a lot about Noah, but we do know that he was married and had three sons who each had wives. We are told in 2Pet. 2:5 that he was a preacher of righteousness. He must have been busy.

 **II. Temple (2Sam 7; 1Kings 5:3; 1Chron 17:4)**

A. David was finally at rest and wanted to serve his Lord (build him a house)

 B. God would not allow it because David was a soldier of war and shed so much blood

 C. God commissioned Solomon to build His temple

 D. I am sure that Solomon was busy, but he built the Temple for the Lord

 **III. Walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 1-4)**

A. Nehemiah was the kings’ cupbearer (1:11), he worried about Judah the beloved city of his father’s which laid in ruins

 B. What a great example we have in building for the Lord

 1. They finished ahead of schedule (just 52 days)

 2. Nehemiah was a great leader, but the people had a mind to work (4:6)

 3. They had to fight off enemies while building (4:7-8; 4:16-17)

 4. They did not allow the ridicule from enemies hinder them (4:1-3; 6:1-4)

C. Nehemiah, was very busy before this taking on the job to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but he knew it was time to do the Lord’s work

 **IV. The Lord’s church (Acts 2:37ff)**

A. The apostles did not think they were ready for the abundance of work before them

 1. Not qualified, not leaders nor teachers

B. However, they gave their life to the cause and once the Comforter arrived they knew it was time to build for the Lord.

 **V. Each congregation of the Lord’s church**

A. Today, we know that we too must serve the Lord. Sometimes the timing does not seem right. Not on our timeframe.

B. However, there comes a time as we have seen through this lesson that we must rise up and build for the Lord. For us that time is NOW.

1. Consider this, as we plan our days. Give God what He deserves of our service to Him.

2. Consider this, as we plan our days. Support your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ (your attendance, inviting others, etc)

**Conclusion:**

I. We must take away what we can from the history preserved for us in the Holy Scriptures (Rom. 15:4; 2Tim 3:16-17)

II. What I take away is what I see at the core which is: commitment, focus, motivation, energy, and making it a priority. If we do these things, we too will be successful and bear fruit for the Master.