

# 'Building Blocks of Faith Series'

## Sermons in the Book of Nehemiah

### Message 10 - 'The Wall is Finished! (But the work has just begun...) Nehemiah 6:15 - 7:3



Nehemiah had finished the work on the wall. The walls had been rebuilt. The work appeared to be finished, but in reality, the hard work had only just begun. Even though the physical work of rebuilding the walls had been successful, Nehemiah now has to organise a city, and make sure that the people were structured, and living in a way that was pleasing to God. We were able to see a number of points:

**1. Completion** – Nehemiah’s enemies realised that the reason why the work had prospered was because it had been done ultimately by the great God of heaven. It is a lesson that we should heed and hold onto, that as we labour for the Lord, we need Him in the midst, for without Him we can do nothing. God has deemed it to be that He works through faithful people, and He uses them, but it is God who works. Even though the work of building the walls had been finished, the enemy threat remained. A famous preacher has said, ‘Many a careless Christian has won the war but afterward lost the victory’. We need to be those who are as watchful after the victory as we are before the battle. Even though it is hard to accept sometimes, opposition to the work of the Lord is one way good for God’s work, but specifically the workers, it reminds us of the essential need to ‘Watch and Pray!’

**2. Complication** – It is staggering, that any Jew, after seeing the Lord’s hand move and provide for them, would still look to cooperate with the enemy. Not only that, but as we have seen before, the ones who sought to do this were from the royal tribe of Judah! If any tribe should have been aware of their privileged standing in the future ‘city of David’, it should have been them. God had promised that it would be through their line that the Saviour and King would come. How unbelievable that they should seek to stand in a position of compromise, resisting the Lord, and disobeying His Word. These compromisers had tried to introduce the enemy into the situation and undermine Nehemiah’s position. Nehemiah’s response was to ignore the threat and remain focused on the work He had been given to do.

**3. Consolidation** - It says in Ephesians 6:13, ‘And having done all, to stand’. Nehemiah had been steadfast in the building process, he now had to be incredibly wise and steadfast in the consolidation process. We have seen in the earlier part of the book that the people existed for the walls, but now, the walls existed for the people. Now they walls were completed, the main job was to organise a community that could dwell in the quality of life that the Lord desired for them. Nehemiah put safeguards in place, on the walls, at the gates, and near homes. Every Christian ministry is one generation away from destruction, and we must be on our guard. We need guards at the gates who desire to maintain a faithful church, and not allow others to come in and impose wrongful thoughts. We need watchers on the walls who will warn us when the enemy is coming. It is whilst God servants are asleep and complacent that the enemy can sow and plant his agents. Be awake, be alert!



## Penzance Baptist Church

‘Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace’

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs