

OCTOBER 29TH, 2023

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Nehemiah 2:1-20

In 1989, our dear shepherd at that time, Pastor Ron Blough, initiated our reading through a portion of the 66 books of the Bible as a congregation, typically a chapter each Sunday. Since then, we have been through the entire Bible one full time and are currently in Nehemiah, the 16th book of the Bible.

TODAY'S SERVICE

- 1. Hymn #448 "O Master, let Me Walk with Thee"
- 2. Opening Prayer & Announcements
- 3. Hymn #427 "Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"
- 4. Hymn #440- "Jesus Calls Us"
- 5. Hymn #**521** "Channels Only"
- 6. Reading: Brother Wyatt D.
- 7. **Message**: "Counting the Cost"
- 8. Hymn #536 "Joy in Serving Jesus"
- Benediction
- 10. Evening Service 6 p.m. The Heavenly Footman; Ecc 7:8



COUNTING the COST

Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode. **NEHEMIAH 2:12**, ESV

I. the Brief Historical Background

A. Destruction of the Temple: 586 BC

B. Decree of Cyrus to Rebuild: 536 BC

C. Darius' 6th Year, Finished: 516 BC

D. Departure of Ezra from Babylonia: 458 BC

E. Date Nehemiah's Ministry Begins: 444 BC

Book of Nehemiah

Repairing the Walls

Preparation, **1-2** Cooperation, **3**

Opposition, 4-6

Reviving the People

Registration, 7

Proclamation, 8

Confession, 9

Obligation, 10-12

Purification, 13

II. the Breakdown of the Chapter

A. Sent unto God's Service, vv1-8

- 1. a sad face & serious inquiry, vv1-3
- 2. a sudden prayer & quick answer, vv4-8
- 3. a silent decree [between verses]
 - a. Sir Robert Anderson, The Coming Prince (March 14, 445 BC)
 - i. Dan 9:25 (April 6, 32 AD)
- **B. Survey of the Site**, vv9-20

III. the Blessings Emphasized from Our Text

"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?" **Luke 14:28**, ESV

A. Counting the Cost for Christ's Church's Sake

- $1. \ considering \ the \ colossal \ task \ of \ wall-building$
- 2. considering the Christ-like character of Nehemiah

B. Counting the Cost for Daily Discipline's Sake

- 1. considering the colossal task of personal wall-building
- 2. considering the Christ upon whose power & strength we rely

C. Counting the Cost for Eternal Salvation's Sake

- 1. considering some objections to Christianity
- 2. considering the rejection of Christ's offer
- 3. considering the dejection of Christian offense
- 4. considering the elation of Christ's kingdom

QUOTE of the WEEK

The joy which our Lord commends is one which springs from faith, while the other joy arises alone from sight. A man can see that he has gifts, he can see that he has power and influence, he can see that he has success; but rest assured that every joy which comes to believers through the sight of the eyes is a doubtful joy. It is a dainty of which we must eat in scanty measure. Hast thou found such honey as this? eat not too much of it lest it sicken thee. But the joy caused by our names being written in heaven comes of faith, for eye hath not seen the record, neither hath any angel read it to us, and only because we believe in Jesus are we assured thereof: for this reason the joy grows in a good soil and is in itself safe. All the joys of faith are safe as the water which flowed from the smitten rock, no poisonous streams can ever issue from that source. This joy is a heavenly manna whereof a man may eat according to his eating, and let his soul be satiated. This is healthy meat which breeds no plague in the camp as the eating of the quails did, for the quails were sent in wrath to satisfy their fierce desires. We never hear of men dying of eating the manna which came down from heaven, but they did die through eating quails, which were food for their lusts. Be it thine to get as much as ever thou canst of the joys of faith, and especially of this-"Rather rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

....To be written in heaven means that you claim the right of citizenship in the New Jerusalem, "the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven." Just as there is a roll kept by great cities in which they inscribe the names of citizens, so do we rejoice that our names are written in the roll of the city above, and that henceforth our citizenship is in heaven, from whence we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus. This is a broad subject for rejoicing, for it includes priceless privileges and honours more than royal. [empasis in original]

"Why May I Rejoice?" from the text, Luke 10:20 a sermon delivered on October 29th, 1876 by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon** Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume 22, Sermon No. 1,321

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2023

FAMILY READINGS			PRIVATE READINGS	
2 Kings 10	2 Timothy 1	29	Hosea 2	Ps. 119:97-120
2 Kings 11-12	2 Timothy 2	30	Hosea 3-4	Ps. 119:121-144
2 Kings 13	2 Timothy 3	31	Hosea 5-6	Ps. 119:145-176
2 Kings 14	2 Timothy 4	1	Hosea 7	Ps. 120-122
2 Kings 15	Titus 1	2	Hosea 8	Ps. 123-125
2 Kings 16	Titus 2	3	Hosea 9	Ps. 126-128
2 Kings 17	Titus 3	4	Hosea 10	Ps. 129-131
2 Kings 18	Philemon	5	Hosea 11	Ps. 132-134

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