

## December Study 2018 “Determined. Staying On Mission For God”

Good morning CCJ- I'd like to welcome each and every one of you and let you know that we're so pleased to have you join us today for the study of God's word. My name is Justin Sullivan, Pastor Jeff and Pastor Russ have entrusted me to bring the message today, Its the last one of the year and I hope its one that will challenge and change us as I know Gods word has the power to do.  
AMEN

So as to let you know if you're new here, we will be taking a break from our regular order of study (which is the - chapter by chapter, verse by verse study of the Word of God) and pastor Jeff has been leading us through the book of Philippians, which if you plan on joining us again next year, may I point you to our CCJ Chap app, to listen to past studies from Jeff to get you up to speed.

Just a fare warning, I've had had a couple of weeks to pray and prepare for today. So much time, in fact, that I had several flare ups of analysis paralysis. (Its a real thing, look it up) That's when your brain cripples itself by overthinking a situation.

I mean how do you come up with an end of the year message? What does God want us to know? Gods word is so rich and there are many encouraging verses on which to build an End of the Year message, but which one?

If you've been around here for a couple of months you'd know that there has been some excitement building as plans are forming and some goals are being set for the future. For instance - there are plans to extend the footprint of this building to include an event center, gym, and new youth facilities along with a coffee shop.

I've been blessed to be behind the scenes and get a glimpse of pastor Jeff's heart for excellence among his staff and leadership and I personally have been challenged to grow and change along with them.

Its that great anticipation for the future that I used for inspiration and fuel for todays study. God has plans for us and it is a plan for good, to give us a future and a hope. If God has said it's going to be good and He is the object standard of goodness then we know we're resting our expectations in something that is going to be REALLY GOOD :)

I want us to pray, I am going to place your hearing in the hands of the Holy Spirit, so lets PRAY-

Father go before your people today and open their hearts for you encouraging word today and may we get a renewed sense that we've been called here today at this unique time of history because you have a plan to use us for you Glory, Teach us today, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Right so,

Jeff can take 2 verses from Philippians and skillfully work an entire impactful study together in about a week....I've had 4 plus weeks to prepare...and I want to try and maintain that high level of study, so then ... “How about I teach through the entire book of Nehemiah, all 13 chapters- 406 verses” TODAY ... just kidding.

I will tell you that the book of Nehemiah serves as our primary source of study today.

During my time of preparation, I learned that the book of Nehemiah stands alone as a great practical source on the “service to God”.

I happen to know of several opportunities for service here at the church so here comes my shameless plug for letting you know there are several areas that you can be involved in practicing your “service to God. (Cleaning, grounds, sound, greeters, ushers, and children’s) to name a few; they are all great areas to plug your time and talents into and practice your service to God.

So that’s it I settled on the book of Nehemiah

I got to read through it, studied it, and listened to James MacDonald teach from it. James is the Pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel, which I had the privilege of attending one of their Vertical Church conferences recently.

I enjoyed James’ teaching, he really is gifted. And when he was preparing his study on Nehemiah ran across a resource from a man by the name of Allen Redpath who also penned a devotional commentary on the book of Nehemiah.

Allen Redpath has gone on to be with the Lord (so he is having a GREAT DAY), but he is famous for a few sayings :

“When God wants to do an impossible job he takes an impossible man and crushes him.”

Redpath also said: “The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment, but the manufacture of a Saint is a task of a lifetime.”

I love that one. If you’ve been born again you know what he speaks of - you’ve experience the miracle of a moment, but this process of sanctification, this chasing after, following Him, is the task of a life time.

Well, Allen summed his own devotional commentary on the book of Nehemiah like this-

“The book of Nehemiah is perhaps the classic of all Bible books on the subject of service to God. No other book of the Bible tells us more about what it means to get a task, to get a job, to get a mission, from the God who made you, and to be on it.”

So essentially he’s saying - this book is about staying on mission for GOD!

How many of you realize that YOU and I are on mission from God? Truth is we forget. Perhaps we get caught up in the cares of this world, IDK, but this I do know- Sheep aren’t the smartest in the animal kingdom and that’s what you and I are compared to.

That’s why we need church, we need each other, and more importantly we need the Holy Spirit to remind us and keep us on task...to find OUR CALLING.

We want to be about our calling...

II Peter 1:10 NKJV

“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;”

Peter is talking about being partakers of the divine nature...WE have a new nature, a desire to Please God, to be better, closer, and more effective for the kingdom of God.

Now, there is of course the things that we're ALL called to as Christians:

were all called to holiness;

we're all called to maturity;

we're all called to evangelism;

we're all called to serving;

but to have a sense of THE specific reason WHY God has YOU and I on planet earth and to devote ourselves to that purpose; well now, that's something all together different.

Maybe you already know what your purpose or calling is, then today will serve to strengthen your resolve. But for the rest of us, it is my intent to remind us all that each of us have a unique calling, MISSION if you will, from God, and to help us to be more DETERMINED to bring God Glory through it.

So, the title of this message is “**Determined. Staying on Mission For God.**”

And I thought I'd try something fun today and have you try and count the number of times I say the word DETERMINED from this point forward you keep count of the number of times I say it and come see me after the study to compare your number with mine. If it is correct, you can claim your prize. READY?

Nehemiah

You all know that Nehemiah gets a calling, a mission for God. But I want us to consider how **DETERMINED** he had to be in order to accomplish a seemingly impossible task. This guy Nehemiah is much like you and I are, flesh and blood, prone to just cruising through life; perusing happiness and comfort, with access to many luxuries. Until one day he got some news that changed him. When he got that news something happened, he became **DETERMINED**.

That one English word you're now counting for a prize - **DETERMINED**. Lol

Its a wonderful attribute especially around this time of year as many of us are setting NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS.

And I would love it if each of us would come away from the study today more **DETERMINED** - to stay on mission for God 2019...

The word means: having a strong feeling that you are going to do (or not do) something, and that you will not allow anyone or anything to stop you. It can also mean: resolved, not easily put off course, not going to give up.

Jesus exemplified His life in a way that was **DETERMINED**, HE STAYED ON MISSION FOR GOD (for us), didn't He? Even in the midst of the garden, sweating great drops of blood, crying out to the Father "If there be any other way"- never the less - "Not my will be done but yours, Father" and He is worthy of our worship and all that we can give (Time, treasure, talents, and testimony) AMEN

Now we're getting ready to examine NEHEMIAH - (so go ahead and turn in your bibles now to the book bearing his name), He's not worthy of our worship but certainly worthy of our respect and admiration. He got a calling, a mission from God, and he had to be **DETERMINED** to complete his mission from God.

I'd like to point out 3 ways that Nehemiah had to be **DETERMINED**...

He had to be **DETERMINED** to care, **DETERMINED** to achieve, and he was **DETERMINED** to overcome opposition.

The first **DETERMINED** that we get from Nehemiah is he was **DETERMINED** to Care.

You're in chapter 1,

The Book of Nehemiah begins 15 years after the Book of Ezra ends; almost 100 years after the first captives came back to the Promised Land; and some 150 years after the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. SO After this long time, the walls of the city of Jerusalem were still in rubble.

Captivity is over, and a large number of Jews didn't return. Nehemiah was one of them that stayed. IN FACT- It was only about 2% of the captives returned to Jerusalem for rebuilding and Nehemiah was part of that 98% that choose to stay in captivity while the others returned.

And its like that with us too, it is so easy to go through life complacent. I don't feel I need to point this out but our flesh has a default setting that is selfish (Me, Myself, and Mine), I mean seriously...

Have you ever stopped to wonder why there are so many doing so little for GOD? - Its because they really don't care what God wants, they don't care for other people except what effects them.

Nehemiah probably suffered from a touch of SELF-ITIS too, he had a good job, comfortable surroundings and access to the finest things that can comfort a man at the top. He was the Kings cup bearer.

Except that all changed when he got the news that challenged him to become **DETERMINED** to care.

Its such a small life when you live for the things that matter only to you. Our Vision gets so blurred and limited by living for the me, myself, mine mentality. I don't want us to be like that. We've been

given news that seriously matters too! The question is do we care enough about our news? Do we care what matters most to God?

Seriously!

What's the greatest commandment?

Remember the Pharisees got to ask that question to Jesus in [Matthew 22:36-40 NKJV](#)- "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'"

The law and the prophets is the totality of the word of God.

The heart, soul, mind, and Luke adds strength is quit simply (everything you've got to offer)

The Spark that gets us going on mission for God is LOVE. Let's read chapter ONE, first 4 verses:

**"The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. It came to pass in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the citadel, that Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. And they said to me, "The survivors who are left from the captivity in the province are there in great distress and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem is also broken down, and its gates are burned with fire." So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven."**

**Nehemiah 1:1-4 NKJV**

Now here it is, Nehemiah experienced the spark that ignited a mission from God. He became sensitive to someone else's need, and he took to caring as evident by his response to the news.

Guys, PEOPLE matter to GOD. In fact, there is no ministry without caring for other people. Why do you think there are various ministries here at the church. WE minister to God when we minister to and care for other people.

If your feel your level of caring is lacking, remember what Jesus named as the GOAT commandment, (the Greatest of all Time) - LOVE you God and love other people with ALL of your Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength.

Its that funny Greek word again - All means all,

The greatest command is not a learning or a knowing thing- its a DOING thing. Love is an action!

LOVE is a big deal to God; so much so, that it is THE outstanding characteristic of JESUS and his followers...We need to be **DETERMINED** to show and share LOVE, Love for God and Love for other People, and not just people who love us back either. Jesus elevated it to loving our enemies, IS THAT BEING DONE TODAY?

What do you think the answers would be like if we polled the people on the street? "Name one thing that comes to mind when you think of the word Christian?". I'm afraid its not loving is it?

We've got to get back to being vertically minded towards God and care for the things that God cares for the most. We are to live to LOVE!

Your Love for God will be evident by your love for others. Our flesh may have an appetite for complacency but our default setting as a Born Again Christ follower should be LOVE!

God Takes Love SO seriously that in fact, He receives no worship from those with hatred in their hearts towards others:

"If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

1 John 4:20 NKJV

Nehemiah gives us some practical steps in cultivating this level of **DETERMINED** caring, he says...  
"So it was when I heard these things I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah knew this would be a massive undertaking, an insurmountable task. So he took to the LORD with FASTING, PRAYER.

Here's two disciplines that get talked about but rarely practiced, right?!

Fasting - Its the denial of a physical appetite to heighten your hunger for GOD and make you more sensitive to the things of God, and what matter most. Fasting can make you more sensitive to your purpose and calling.

There are a lot of practical steps towards fasting - just simply give up one meal. It shouldn't be to hard right? Oh but wait, we love to eat don't we, gratify our stomachs...lol, our culture has an over abundance of calories and we keep indulging.

Praying - do we care enough to take our hearts cry to the LORD? Sure, Of course we do but what about other peoples issues?

Look at verses 5-11 - this beautiful prayer of confession and passionate plea for God to move on behalf of the people.

Its a total WE prayer and not a ME prayer. An OTHERS oriented focused prayer...

We see Nehemiah confessing the sins of the people and carrying their burden to the Lord.

Confession - This is another spiritual discipline of a loving Christ follower. Do we Care enough to confess our sins to the LORD?

It is doing a thorough moral and spiritual innovatory, asking the Holy Spirit show you the areas that need confession.

But are we good at confessing or do we have a hard time admitting when we're wrong? Do we have a hard time saying we're sorry? We need to be practicing confession. Its really something that needs be done everyday. Here is why-

Because God won't move on our behalf if there is unconfessed sin...

Psalm 66:18

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear."

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves right?! We've got to confess. God just wants us to identify it and let HIM take care of it.

As we get older in the Lord we're supposed to be getting more tenderhearted and loving, but how many of us are getting more critical or bitter?

We need to be **DETERMINED** to care Christians. Remembering the GOAT commandment - Love. And JUST DO IT!

Realize man - No matter how far off plan you are Regarding Gods mission for your life, - Its not to late. Confession, fasting, and prayer can get you back on course and it flows from caring, LOVING GOD and LOVING PEOPLE.

Caring is the foundation for all doing and achieving for GOD!

Nothing ever gets accomplished for GOD unless it flows out of LOVE; and right now, there are things on planet Earth that GOD wants to accomplish/achieve that aren't getting done because there is a lack of caring.

Just look around at the apathy in the world today.

A teacher once asked a student "What's the difference between apathy and agnosticism?", the student replied - "I don't know and I don't care."

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray - he said - when you pray, pray like this: "thy Kingdom come, THY will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

When we look around us at the world today, ON EARTH, do we see Gods will being done as it is in HEAVEN? Certainly not! We live in a world that is opposed to the things of God, and we'll be discussing more on OPPOSITION in just a little bit, but right now...

Let's look at being **DETERMINED** to achieve shall we:

Now in Chapter 2- Spoiler alert - You guys know that Nehemiah accomplishes his mission right?! He ends up rebuilding the wall... lol

Now its here in chapter 2 that we see a man **DETERMINED** to do something for God...

Many of us have inclinations or certain dispositions, if you will, and there are a lot of ways to categorize us, but one way is to put people into 2 groups: BEING group and DOING group. If you're a be'er you like: Sitting, savoring, settling, waiting, and contentment.

If you are a doer you like: goals, duty, getting after it, get'r done and accomplishment.

Quick poll - How many are in the Doers? Of course they raise their hands ... lol

How many are in Being?

**THEY BOTH MATTER!**

Remember: Mary and Martha? Perfect illustration of these two dispositions.

Its kind of a BEING example in scripture but here at CCJ we love the balance of the word of God, and we don't get the balance from just one portion of scripture do we, often times, the balance doesn't even come from the week to week study of the word. But it comes from the totality of the word of God.

Nehemiah was an A+ DOER. And if you want to get stuff done, our DOING should originate from our BEING, as we'll find out here in chapter 2, verse 1...

**“And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had never been sad in his presence before. Therefore the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing but sorrow of heart.” So I became dreadfully afraid, and said to the king, “May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ tombs, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?””**

**Nehemiah 2:1-3 NKJV**

Here we see that Nehemiah obviously cared, because “His face was sad”; he had a serious burden on his heart that couldn't be kept from the king.

I should point out that between ch.1 and ch. 2 there is about 4 months of time that passes. So Mr A+ doer has been waiting on the LORD. Waiting for God is not waisted time, especially in light of achievement for God!

Needs don't always constitute a call!

Check it out - Nehemiah could of jumped right in to the work impulsively, left his post with the king, and no doubt would of encounter more struggle along the way. Instead he went to praying fasting and confessing to the Lord all this time.

Nehemiah had been waiting on God. WE TOO should pray for “God's timing in everything”! No doubt these past 4 months involve intense planning and thoughtful consideration to ALL that would be needed, and All that would have to be done.

Nehemiah tried so hard to keep it in, and if you've ever been burdened with something you know what he's feeling. He tried to hide it for months till suddenly the damn breaks. And this is a total uh oh moment...

You may remember as we studied in Daniel recently we know that these kings were prone to irrational mood swings and they didn't have to answer to anyone. Nehemiah has been trying to

hold it together and then the king asks - why is your face sad? I picture the whole room just stopped, like a record scratch....

Being sad in the presence of the king was an offense punishable by death. This was a huge potentially life threatening moment for Nehemiah but as we wait on the LORD and seek God's timing in everything we can witness tremendous FAVOR in the Lord.

And as its been said before favor isn't fair. The other people in the room were probably like, "oh boy, where are the guards? We're going to have some entertainment tonight!" Instead look what happens, Verse 4...

**"Then the king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." Then the king said to me (the queen also sitting beside him), "How long will your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time."**

**Nehemiah 2:4-6 NKJV**

Usually when we read a sentence "So I prayed to the God of heaven - what usually follows is the PRAYER. Not here, Nehemiah shows an expectancy of an opportunity that could only come from his WAITING and BEING time with the Lord. Nehemiah goes right into list of things he wants from the king.

And I find something funny about what's in Parenthesis above, did you see it? The queen sitting beside him, I picture the king looking over at her to check and see if his actions were ok. Sure the king doesn't have to answer to anyone, except... lol (If mama ain't happy)

I'm sure the other people in the room were just flabbergasted, their mouths just dropped, going "WHAT THE?". That's because Favor isn't fair.

The moment moves from SAD in the presence of the King, crime punishable by death; and it turns into a - "what do you request, how long, and when back?", kind-of-moment. Thats some serious favor.

But wait there is more; there is a certain Boldness that comes from being led by God as we're about to see. Nehemiah seizes a moment recognizes his favor from the Lord and moves forward with BOLDNESS, and if you were Nehemiah's friend you'd be like lets get out of here, lets go while you still have your head...

Verse 7....

**"Furthermore I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of the region beyond the River, that they must permit me to pass through till I come to Judah, and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which pertains to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted them to me according to the good hand of my God upon me. Then I went to the governors in the region beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen**

**with me. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard of it, they were deeply disturbed that a man had come to seek the well-being of the children of Israel.”**  
**Nehemiah 2:7-10 NKJV**

All this time, waiting on God is not wasted time, I'm sure during that time of fasting and praying, that Mr. A+ doer got down on the details of planning for rebuilding the wall. And when the moment presented itself, with all it's favor, we see his boldness comes from the Lord.

As if to say..."THIS IS IT GOD, DO YOUR THING GOD!"

Nehemiah shifts from being SAD in the presence of the king to "I NEED LETTERS" Nehemiah is **DETERMINED** to achieve, to DO something for God, and there is no way it will happen unless GOD steps in..

I heard it once said and it seem to just fit here...

"God will not give you vision according to your powers but powers according to His vision."  
Nehemiah lacked resources but where God Guides God provides, amen.

Planning is not optional and must precede action. Nehemiah's actions here show that there has been some intentional planning. Things don't just happen because you want them to, you have to make a plan. I heard my father on more than one occasion use the saying- "Failing to plan is planing to fail."

Bible says a lot on planning, but one example is **Proverbs 21:5 NKJV** "The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, But those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty."

But every-time, without fail, any time you set out to accomplish something for God who knows what comes next? The attacks, the OPPOSITION.

When God's people say "arise let us build up", the enemies of God say "arise and let us tear down".

And this is the last **DETERMINED** point I'd like to make: As Gods people we've got to be **DETERMINED** to overcome opposition. We shouldn't be surprised when we set out to achieve something for God that the enemy steps up its attacks and actively opposes you.

I'm not talking about adversity, or complications, problems are just part of living in a fallen creation. I'm talking about the powers and principalities that have created an organized system established to destroy and tear down everything that is sacred to God. They just want to see Gods plans fail. This kind of opposition wants you to fail, and wants you to lose.

That's Satan and his minions y'all...

If the company of angels are innumerable and a third of the angels are fallen, there may be more demonic beings in the universe than there are human beings currently alive, and they are not sitting around playing cards. They are actively involved in opposing the people of God and the work of God. They seek to disgrace and discredit the work of our Savior.

Jump over to Nehemiah Chapter 4 with me, looking at verse 1

**“But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews. And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish— stones that are burned?” Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall.””**

**Nehemiah 4:1-3 NKJV**

This is just verbal abuse and criticism. Satan uses people to actively oppose the work of God.

There is a particular level of hatred directed toward you, especially if you stand for God. The Jews know this level of hatred all too well.

Just as Jesus has a wonderful plan for your life, Satan has a terrible plan for yours and he has nothing but hatred towards you or anything that is special to GOD, and wants to steal kill and destroy it!

But as Harry Ironside - “When the people of God cleave to His word and exalt His name they need not fear any enemy human or demonic.”

If you’ve given your life to Christ we’ve been called out of this world guess what - “The world Hates you” - Jesus said, because “it hated me first”.

Now down to verse 7...

**“Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.”**

**Nehemiah 4:7-8 NKJV**

You’ve heard the old saying “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.”? The problem is, sometime it is (sticks and stones). And we need to be ready for combat. **“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,”** II Corinthians 10:4 NKJV

God is not the author of confusion (is He?), but of love power and sound mind. AMEN

You’re hated because you’re in rebellion to the world. You and I stand for having Gods will be done on earth as it is in heaven, and this world wants nothing to do with “Gods will” or heaven!

If we want to be on mission for God we have to be ALERT to the CALL of God on our lives. God has work for us to do and we need to be ready and available for God, abiding in the VINE attuned to HIS will.

Opposition is going to come and it is just part of the cost for achievement for God. Dealing with opposition is not an interruption from the work, IT IS PART OF THE WORK! Dealing with opposition is not a detour from the work, IT IS the work.

Verse 16...

**“So it was, from that time on, that half of my servants worked at construction, while the other half held the spears, the shields, the bows, and wore armor; and the leaders were behind all the house of Judah. Those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked at construction, and with the other held a weapon. Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me.”**

**Nehemiah 4:16-18 NKJV**

A portion of the work will always be dealing with opposition. (Some work on the work and some work dealing with opposition). This is a reality.

Charles Spurgeon, many of you know who he is, he had a frequent publication to people who were in ministry. Does anyone know what it was titled?... it was called “The Sword and the Trowel”. Because he understood that the work is BOTH! (the work, and the defense)

Jesus said... [John 16:33 NKJV](#)

**“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**”

Now finally lets look at these last few verses in chapter 4...

**“Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, “The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.” So we labored in the work, and half of the men held the spears from daybreak until the stars appeared. At the same time I also said to the people, “Let each man and his servant stay at night in Jerusalem, that they may be our guard by night and a working party by day.” So neither I, my brethren, my servants, nor the men of the guard who followed me took off our clothes, except that everyone took them off for washing.”**

**Nehemiah 4:19-23 NKJV**

Nehemiah was a good leader. He did not say, “Go”, he said, “Come”; and he bore the brunt of the service. He did the hard work, he and those with him did not put off their clothes, even for sleeping.

This just showed that they were always ready to respond to the sound of the trumpet, and as Christians we need to be armed with the same attitude!

The work is extensive! There is much to do. We're to Rally the Family of GOD, ready to COME TOGETHER, labor and fight, remembering "Our God will fight for us" and to continue the work for it is great, and widely spread.

These are powerful reminders for us today.

We're to be about Unity and staying in contact with one another, hence the coming together at church. Church is a place to experience Gods glory- remembering "Our God will fight for us" too! But it is also a place for us to practice (Our Service to God)

James MacDonald said "We are not being lead poorly given the brevity of life and the length of eternity, to be challenged to look into all that you have and how you're using it for Gods glory."

"All that we have" guys thats our - Testimony, Time, Treasure, and Talents.

There will always be work to do, so let's WORK OUT, what God puts in us. AMEN

Let's stand....

Jesus said ...

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

John 9:4-5 NKJV

As long as you're in this world Christian you've got a calling and a mission for God.

I attended a candle light service this year and it is such an awesome practical picture of how light can spread, and illumination takes place as "each person does there part"

May each one of us do our part, answering our call and mission for God.

Caring is the foundation for achievement for God, and dealing with opposition is just part of answering the call.

The bright side of all this is that ONE DAY, this ends with a huge party and GOD'S side wins. But right now this world is not our home, this is not our rest, we are to RETURN to the wall / the work, and stay **DETERMINED**. Staying on mission for God. Amen.

So that's it family - Are you **DETERMINED** for 2019? Let's: CARE, ACHIEVE, and OVERCOME opposition.

Lets pray...

Let us use our Time, our Treasures, our Talents, and our Testimony to glorify your NAME...each of us doing our part on the work that you want to accomplish, you will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

AMEN

23 DETERMINED