

3/30/08AM

Does It Matter?

Randy Hilburn

INTRODUCTION: It matters what we believe. It matters what we think. Why? It determines what we do. It all directly impacts how we act. Though we are often too concerned with what others may think of us, it is still not as important as what we think and believe about our world. Doubt about what we believe causes us to not act on it. Consider current events & Israel in the book of Nehemiah.

I. NEHEMIAH WAS MADE TO REMEMBER HOW GOD REACTS TO UNFAITHFULNESS

- A. Maybe it had been out of sight, out of mind for Nehemiah. **Neh. 1:1-3**
- B. The news he received changed his world view.
- C. He called to mind that God is always there. **1:5-6**
- D. The simple reality: We are unfaithful because we do not believe.
- E. Jesus also decries the apathy and unfaithfulness of his people. **Rev. 3:14-19**
- F. What would Jesus be saying to us?

II. NEHEMIAH CHALLENGED THE PEOPLE TO ACT ON WHO THEY WERE

- A. **Neh. 2:17** - we are a reproach and we shouldn't be!
- B. What are we doing with our walls?
- C. If we believe the truth about Jesus, whom are we to be?
1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 6:1; 2 Cor. 2:14-17

III. NEHEMIAH DEVELOPED A PLAN OF ACTION

- A. Some worked and some protected. Some did both. **Neh. 4:16-17**
- B. The importance of the work was the source of unity. **4:19-20**
- C. The work had to be done to protect their worship, family and community.
- D. The plan was met with substantial opposition: Laughter - **2:19**; Anger - **4:1**;
Conspiracy to attack - **4:8**; Tried to frighten - **6:9**
- E. It worked, and without a miracle. **4:14-16**

IV. NEHEMIAH TAUGHT EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED TO NEVER DOUBT

- A. God is still involved in our lives and cares about our struggles.
- B. His word remains as true as it always has been.
- C. He rewards those who diligently seek him.
- D. We have the ability to discourage those who prefer evil. **Neh. 6:16**

CONCLUSION: Without question, it matters what we believe. It mattered when the people of Israel needed to rebuild the walls. It matters if we are going to keep building our walls. What we believe about Christ's sacrifice, God's sovereignty and the authority of his word matters. It will affect the course of action we choose to take.