



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

NINILCHIK

NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

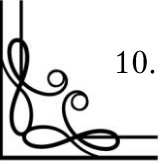
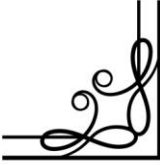
Nehemiah 4:1-23

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 #5 - "I Will Praise Him"
 2. Opening Prayer & Announcements
 3. Hymn #10 - "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
 4. Hymn #143- "Be Thou My Vision"
 5. Hymn #140 - "Lead On, O King Eternal"
 6. Reading: **Brother Mike S.**
 7. **Message:** "Sword & Trowel"
 8. Hymn #664 - "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?"
 9. Benediction
 10. Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m.
Ecclesiastes 7:8
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SWORD & TROWEL

The Work & Warfare of Christian Life

Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

NEHEMIAH 4:17-18, 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 <i>Repairing the Walls</i> Preparation, 1-2 Cooperation, 3 Opposition, 4-6 <i>Reviving the People</i> Registration, 7 Proclamation, 8 Confession, 9 Obligation, 10-12 Purification, 13
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II. *the BREAKDOWN of the CHAPTER*

A. *the Work Opposed*, vv1-14

- 1. God's enemies strategize to attack
- 2. God's people engage in prayer & preparation for battle

B. *the Work Resumes*, vv15-23

- 3. God's enemies decide not to attack
- 4. God's people resume the work with vigilant preparedness

III. *the BLESSINGS EMPHASIZED from OUR TEXT*

A. *the Work on the Wall*

- 1. spiritual representation
- 2. significant implications

B. *the Wickedness against the Wall*

- 1. servants of the devil, v7 (2 Cor 11:14-15)
- 2. strategies of the devil, v8 (1 Jn 2:16)
 - a. *desires of the flesh*
 - b. *desires of the eyes*
 - c. *pride of life*

C. *the Warfare at the Wall*

- 1. the enemy is deceived, v3 (2 Tim 3:12-13)
- 2. the enemy fears the Lord, v15 (Jas 2:19)
- 3. the essential work & warfare is Christ's, v14 (1 Sam 17:47)
- 4. the everyday work & warfare is ours, vv17-18 (2 Tim 2:3)
 - a. keep God's Word at hand (Psa 119:11)
 - b. keep working to the end (2 Tim 4:7)
 - c. keep a faithful ear alert for Christ's voice (1 Thess 5:17)

QUOTE of the WEEK

Things must have names; Adam named the beasts, but God himself named the day and the night. Oh serve the fifth verse, “And God called the light day, and the darkness called he night.” It is a very blessed work of grace to teach us to call things by their right names. Why did he call the light day and the darkness night, except for this reason: —He seems to say, “Let these things be distinguished, let light wear its name of *day*, and darkness its title of night. From which I gather that the good which God works in his people must be good always, and can never be described as bad. The spiritual aspirations of God’s people never can be evil. Carnal reason calls them folly, but the Lord would have us call them good. Here is a man who is panting after graces which will cost him great sacrifices, panting after a spirituality which will separate him from men; it cannot be evil for him to seek the highest possible degree of grace. On the other hand, that which is darkness cannot be light, and must not be called anything but night. We have heard of some who have taken the sins of God’s people and said, “These are not sins in these people.” This is a grievous error, for darkness is darkness, and must be called night wherever it may be, and if I find sin in my father or mother, dearly as I love them, and desire to have them perfect, yet I must not make excuse for it and seek to call darkness day. I must not in myself, when I discern imperfection, find a soft name for it, by which I may take away its wickedness. I must call it what it is. I remember hearing of a good man. I believe he was such, who fell into drunkenness on one occasion. He was excommunicated from Church fellowship, and properly so; but afterwards he became very penitent, and he went about the streets like a man who really should die of grief, and ashamed because of his sin. He could not find peace. A dear brother, who knew something of him, took him aside one day and said, “Dear brother, have you made a full confession of your sin before God?” He thought he had. “Now,” said the other, “it is a hard thing for me to ask, but I should like to hear you confess this sin.” So he did. When he came to the act of confessing his sin to God, he said, “Lord, thou knowest I have indulged my appetites,” and so on. He was not a bit better. “Now,” said his friend, “My dear brother, you had better unveil your whole sin and hide nothing. Then he prayed thus: “Lord, thou knowest *I got drunk*.” It was all right as soon as he brought the thing out and called the darkness night, and went no longer round about. The Lord will not hear his people if they call the darkness day. He will not attend to them. He will have them call darkness night. So, let us go where we may, whether in ourselves or in other people, we must learn to call a spade a spade, to call things by their right names. There is a great deal, remember, in the names which we give to things, because they are generally the index of our own estimation of what those things are. It is a work of grace to teach us always to call the light day, and the darkness night. [*emphasis in original*]

“Light, Natural and Spiritual” from the text, Genesis 1:1-5

a sermon delivered on November 12th, 1865

by **Charles Haddon Spurgeon** (1834-1892)

Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume 11, Sermon No. 660

This Week's Bible Portions from *Robert Murray McCheyne's "Daily Bread"*

NOVEMBER 2023

FAMILY READINGS			PRIVATE READINGS	
2 Kings 25	Hebrews 7	12	Amos 1	Psalms 144
1 Chron. 1-2	Hebrews 8	13	Amos 2	Psalms 145
1 Chron. 3-4	Hebrews 9	14	Amos 3	Ps. 146-147
1 Chron. 5-6	Hebrews 10	15	Amos 4	Ps. 148-150
1 Chron. 7-8	Hebrews 11	16	Amos 5	Luke 1:1-38
1 Chron. 9-10	Hebrews 12	17	Amos 6	Luke 1:39-80
1 Chron. 11-12	Hebrews 13	18	Amos 7	Luke 2
1 Chron. 13-14	James 1	19	Amos 8	Luke 3

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