Nehemiah

Part 5 – Chapter 4

Opposition to the Work of God

* Review
* Nehemiah’s opponents
  + 4:1-3 - *Now it came about that when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became furious and very angry and mocked the Jews. He spoke in the presence of his brothers and the wealthy men of Samaria and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Are they going to restore it for themselves? Can they offer sacrifices? Can they finish in a day? Can they revive the stones from the dusty rubble even the burned ones?“ Now Tobiah the Ammonite was near him and he said, "Even what they are building-- if a fox should jump on it, he would break their stone wall down!*”
  + 4:7-8 - *Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repair of the walls of Jerusalem went on, and that the breaches began to be closed, they were very angry. All of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause a disturbance in it.*
* Enemies of God’s work
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that oppose the work of God
    - Ungodly governmental leaders (4:1-3)
    - [Often well-meaning] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Job 2:9)
    - [Often well-meaning] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Job 4-31)
    - Ungodly friends (Prov 1:10-33) and family (Joseph’s brothers – Gen. 37ff)
    - Fallen humanity (Peter – Matt. 16:23, crowds who crucified Jesus – Matt. 27:20-23)
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (culture, ideologies, media, entertainment, workplaces, schools, sports, places of commerce, etc.) (1 John 2:15-17, Rom. 12:2)
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and his forces (Eph. 6:10-20, Job 1-2, 1 Peter 5:8-9)
  + Our own indwelling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 6-7, Gal. 5:16-26) – a different enemy?
* Combatting opposition
  + 1:4-11
  + 2:4
  + [2:8]
  + [2:18]
  + [2:20]
  + 4:4
  + 4:9