

The Participants and the Opponents

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Introduction: Baptism and wall building – How they are similar...

Text: Nehemiah 3,4,&6 (selected texts)

Main Idea: No “good work” ... not “rebuilding work” is undertaken without the participation of “good people” and the opposition of “bad people”. These chapters illustrate both and Nehemiah’s encouragement of the one and response to the other. The work of God will always involve three kinds of people:

I. The People who Rebuild – The Company of the Faithful – Why the lists?

- A. People count in God’s community
- B. Places count in God’s geography
- C. Projects require the cooperation of God’s people

Apply - How does my work, my wall fit into the larger plan of God?

II. The People who Resist – four opposition tactics

- A. Ridicule – propaganda that demeans effort
- B. Resistance – physical intimidation that incites fear
- C. False Reports – political uncertainty created by “spin”
- D. Re-direction – false prophets using “religious language” to create division

III. The Leader who Responds – the Collection of Leadership Traits

Nehemiah’s response as a redemptive analogy of Jesus Christ...

What sort of leader am I?

Illustration – the walls of Machu Pichu