

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

NEHEMIAH SERIES

These questions are for the **October 23, 2016** sermon, "So the Wall was Finished." Please read the sermon passage (Nehemiah 6:1-19) together out loud.

IN THE FACE OF . . .

1. **Hidden agendas, focus upon God's work.** (1-4)
 - A. The work is not yet complete. The gates are not on their hinges. The city is vulnerable.
 - B. Nehemiah's opponents try to lure Nehemiah to a "meeting of the minds" where they
 - i. will try to get him to pause the work God had called him to: disobedience.
 - ii. will try to get Nehemiah to set aside his convictions: compromise.
 - iii. will try to provide artificial peace and unity: make it look spiritual.
 - C. Nehemiah would not be distracted, confused or delayed. He prioritized God's work.
 - D. "FOCUS: Follow One Course Until Successful."
2. **False accusations, rely upon God's strength.** (5-9)
 - A. Nehemiah's enemies judged his motives and "went public" with the lies.
 - B. His opponents identified complaints, but the "complainers" were mostly anonymous.
 - C. Nehemiah offered a clear and forceful response, and prayed for God's strength.
3. **Spiritual deception, depend upon God's Word** (10-14)
 - A. Again, they make they offer "sound" spiritual: "Come to a meeting in the Temple."
 - B. Nehemiah knew the Scriptures (Num 18:7; Deut 13:1-3). He would not go.
 - C. Knowing and understanding the Scriptures is the surest way to stand against deception and foolishness.
4. **Continual opposition, reflect upon God's help** (15-19)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: How have you faced an opponent with a "hidden agenda" who tried to distract you from the Work of God? Are you getting better at remaining "focused"?
2. Based on #1, above: We heard the quote, "Don't dabble in 40 things; do one thing well" (- Dawson Trotman). What are 39 things you are doing which is making your "one thing" suffer? How can you stop doing some of those 39 things? Are you willing?
3. Based on #2, above: How have you faced opponents who judged your motives? Did they take it public? How has social media and Facebook made this problem worse? What does it look like for God to "strengthen your hand" even when the whole world seems to believe lies about you?
4. Based on #3, above: Knowing God's Word is not only the answer for salvation and knowing God, it is also the answer with regard to standing against schemes, lies, fears and God's opponents. What hard situation do you face now? Where does God's Word address that situation?
5. Based on #4, above: Your opponents will try to wear you down. Where do you feel your resistance to opposition weakening? How can we help you hold your position?