

A sound mind

In the book of Nehemiah, we read of the reconstruction of the wall around Jerusalem. The wall served as a protection for the city. It would keep those in the city safe from attack by keeping those who would come against them out. Gates in the wall were also used to screen or allow people to come in or out; those seeking to do business in the city or those seeking the city's protection. Without walls, the city would be easily overrun. Without walls, the temple within would come to ruin. If the Israelites were to only re-build the temple their work may very well be in vain. There is a word that shows up 43 times in Nehemiah that gives us a pretty good understanding of what constructing the wall is. That word is translated to strengthen or repair. This "work" has a New Testament counterpart. There is a mending that must be carried out by God's people so they may stand fast in this evil day and if it is disregarded, we will be easily overrun. When we are overrun, we will find ourselves in another city with other walls and gates that will hold us captive. Stuck as slaves to another leader. However, as God's children the gates of that city will not prevail against us.

Without the "good work" of repairing the wall we become as **Proverbs 25:28** says: He that *hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

No longer a disgrace

Neh 2:17 Then I said to them, "You see the bad situation we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate and its gates have been burned by fire. Come, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a disgrace."

Neh 2:18 And I told them how the hand of my God had been favorable to me and also about the king's words which he had spoken to me. Then they said, "Let's arise and build." So they(**strengthened**) put their hands to the good work.

H2781 *cherpâh* *kher-paw'* From [H2778](#); (To pull off or expose) *contumely, disgrace, the pudenda*: - rebuke, reproach (-fully), shame.

A city without walls is a disgrace or shameful. The idea is that of a person who is not wearing any clothes. As Adam and Eve searched to cover their nakedness we also need to be covered by what God supplies.

Rev 3:17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have no need of anything," and you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and **naked**,

Rev 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and **the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed**; and eye salve to apply to your eyes so that you may see.

We need the covering or protection God supplies

Ecc 7:12 For wisdom is **protection** (defense, shadow) *just as* money (defense, shadow) is **protection**, But the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom keeps its possessors alive.

The question arises: which of these will you make as your shadow or protection? We need to "work" to acquire either of these protections. For money we physically work for wisdom we must spiritually work. For wisdom, we must seek it from the Lord and always be asking for it. James 1:5 and Seeking it as treasure Proverbs 2:4 in His Word. For we know we cannot serve God and mammon Matthew 6:24

Isa 4:5 And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory *shall be* a defense.(canopy NASB)

Isa 4:6 And **there will be a shelter to give shade** from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.

Psa 121:5 The LORD is your protector (keeper, hedge about); The LORD is your **shade** on your right hand.

What is this good work?

It is a work architected by God which can only be completed by Him.

Php 1:6 *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a **good work** among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

But requires our "participation"

Php 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything **by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God.

Php 4:7 And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, will **guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus**.

The wall is the peace of God built by prayer and the promises of God; His Word.

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.

Joh 14:27 "Peace I leave you, **My peace I give you**; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.

There can only be one source of peace.

A Zeal for His House

Each is to repair the wall in front of their house but the work is shared and we may help repair the wall around others

Neh 3:20 After him Baruch the son of Zabbai **zealously** repaired another section, from the Angle to the doorway of the house of Eliashib (God will restore) the high priest.

This word carries with it the emotion of anger...

Rev 3:19 'Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline; **therefore be zealous and repent.**

Rev 3:20 'Behold, **I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.**

You are the temple of God 1 Corinthians 6:19

Joh 2:15 And He made a whip of cords, and drove *them* all out of the temple *area*, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables;

Joh 2:16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, **"Take these things away from here; stop making My Father's house a place of business!"**

Joh 2:17 His disciples remembered that it was written: **"ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."**

Jesus will not come into the inner court of your heart to "clean house" until there is repentance or an answer of Him knocking. He will not share that space with another, particularly an idol (David hates them) When you hate your idol enough to have it "removed" by Jesus, He will

come in and clean house! He will then stand sentinel of your heart and mind.

Jas 1:6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

Jas 1:7 For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

Jas 1:8 *being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

A double-minded man will not have the Holy Spirit ruling over his spirit

Proverbs 25:28 He that *hath* no rule over his own spirit *is like* a city *that is* broken down, *and* without walls.