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SAYING NO TO ONO

By Scott Lowther

One of the things we will talk about today is from the Book of Nehemiah. Let me set the stage. How many of you get distracted easily? Really distracted from what the Lord has called you to do? We fall into that area of distraction and being pulled away. One of the things, if any of you have been here for more than 2 months, you'll know some of the things that have happened. With that said one of the verses that Tony Navarrez's wife came up with at the very beginning of all these things was she told her husband to not get off the wall. Do not get off going about doing the Lord's work.

And that stuck with me ever since that first day that I heard her say it. It came up in the Elder Meeting several times. "Don't get off the wall". I shared in the meeting a bible study on that. It's amazing the parallels that scripture says "all these things are written beforehand for our learning that through the comfort and endurance of the scripture we would have hope". It's amazing to me that you can see in the Book of Nehemiah the parallels in how the enemy works to do the exact same thing. He doesn't have a new plan he just has the same old plan because it is so effective. I want to preface that as we look at that book for the parallel with your own life. Because God has called us to do a great work. And we have been doing some great things here. I am humbled by them. When you see people run to the Lord that say "I don't know everything but I know I need Jesus". That's God working and it's very sweet. Then the enemy comes along right after that trying to steal away what God is doing. Trying to get you distracted on things that really don't matter. What kind of donuts are we going to have!

I want to talk to you specifically about what God has called you to do. Take some principals from the story of Nehemiah, maybe apply it to your life and see if you are being distracted and pulled in the same way. Distraction is a major cause of procrastination. Isn't it? As long as I get distracted and turn away. So distraction by definition is "the dividing of attention of an individual or group from the chosen object of attention based upon the distraction". So in other words "I'm focused on this until

something else is more appealing, or something else grabs my heart or something else sounds reasonable. And it pulls me away from what I am suppose to be doing or focusing on. So I'll call it "Satan's multitasking."

Nehemiah 6:3: "I am doing a great work why should I stop and come down and visit with you". Nehemiah is standing on a wall. He is completing his task. He's got a weapon in one hand, he's working in the other and he's saying "look, all you people are trying to pull me away from this work, why should I leave it? Why should I be pulled from it? Because God has called me to it." That is the verse I think for me has been the verse since I took on the interim role here. It's been like, I'm not going to get pulled from the word of God in prayer so that I can be involved in people disputing over whether we can get two-ply or one-ply. I'm just not! I'm like if you want fancy t.p. bring it from home but I'm not going to get pulled off of God's work for that. And yet all of us have the tendency to let those things well up within us and pull us away.

The work that God has called us to do isn't volume ness. It's not have much work you do. We have a tendency to value the volume of things and we call that "being productive". God has a tendency to value the importance of things and call that "fruitful". Fruitful. It's not that you do many things, it's that you do one or two things that glorify Him and bear fruit.

When Jesus was asked the question "what do I got to do". He said this in *John 6:29: "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent"*. So it's believing, following, loving. It's embracing truth, the word. It's having a head and thinking of truth. But it's letting that thought process of meditating and chewing on the word come down to your heart where you rejoice in it and that becomes what you value and your praise it. You need both.

I came to church today and someone told me they put little boxes of Kleenex around because we seem to be weeping a lot lately. I said "as long as we are not weeping and gnashing of teeth, the weeping is OK". That's good because God wants us to feel something. God wants us to feel him, to feel his greatness and have a heart for him. And be interested in who he is and love him and want him and pursue him. So it's not enough that we think rightly about him. Anything that pulls you from that is the enemy of your soul. God wants right thinking with rejoicing. It's not

one or the other. It's not whether you are a charismatic or whether you are an egghead theologian - it's both.

I'm glad that God is moving in your hearts out there if you are crying. It's OK to cry, Jesus wept. We glorify God in that we are stirred. Not that we are cold and hard hearted. Wasn't Jesus assessment that I would that you were hot or cold but since you are neither I will spill you out of my mouth. God wants passion, he wants that from us.

Nehemiah is in the midst of this work. He hears of the things going on in Jerusalem and he wants to go back and build the wall. He says this *Nehemiah 2:17-18: "Then I said to them, "you see the trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and we will no longer be in disgrace". I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king has said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding". So they began this good work.*

Now what happens is the people are excited. They're like "you know what, let's do the work, let's get with it, let's go". They had a great leader in Nehemiah and he said "look, God is with us". And yet the enemy comes along the very first thing and it's tactic is simply this: they laugh at the idea. *Nehemiah 2:19: "But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. They asked, "What is this thing you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"*

So the minute they intended to do what God had put upon their heart, there instantly comes this mocking, this laughing, this "are you serious, do you think you are going to do that?" And I can tell you from my own experience of the last weeks, at the very beginning of all this, there was that same attitude. "Are you kidding, who are you fooling, that ain't going to happen, God's not going to do anything, it's over, what a joke". And that's the same tactic that consistently happens in scripture from beginning to end.

The desire. Anybody scripture says "who wants to live Godly will suffer persecution". It's not that you are even doing it, it's just that you want to. And from that desire comes attack and it starts in the form of mockery. And so step 1 in this process is the laughing and the mocking even before you

begin anything. You've just got to have a desire to and there comes this mocking from the world.

So they started to build the wall. Nehemiah gets them working. The people are working with all their heart. They managed to build it half way up. The weapon of laughter didn't seem to discourage them. So what happens next, the 2nd step, they ridicule the people who are doing the work. First the idea of the work is a joke. Now they begin to ridicule the people.

Nehemiah 4:1-3: "When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria (he's bringing accusation to all the people about what Nehemiah and the Jewish people are doing. Look at what he says) and he said "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble - burned as they are?" Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side said "What they are building - if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down this wall of stones!" Tobiah, he's like the guy who always has to say something when there is nothing to say. It's better to be thoughtful and keep your mouth shut than open it and be proved that that's the case. So they are mocking the people and he goes "yeah, if a little fox runs up there it will knock down the wall, ha-ha". That's all he's got. Mocking the workers.

And so what's Nehemiah's response to this? He ignored it. He prayed to God, he continued to build. Because the scripture said "the people had a mind or heart for the work". They had a heart for it and as their leader went - so they went. As he said "God's hand is with us". They believed him. And they kept up with the work.

This is their 2nd tactic. It was to discourage them to break their spirit to tell them that what they were doing would have no durability. Words like "Even if you go a few weeks, God's not going to bless it. Nothing good is ever going to come out of it. It's not going to last. Just pack up and move on". But that's not God's heart, is it. God in that day and God in this day has shown that He is the one who is able to do more than we can imagine or ask. That He is the one who does the work if we stand firm in the truth of what He says.

The 3rd step is the direct spiritual attack of threat and violence. *Nehemiah 6:1-4: "Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, and that there were no breaks left in it (thought at that time I had not hung the doors in the gates), that Sanballat and Geshem sent to me saying "Come, let us meet together among the villages in the plain of Ono". But they thought to do me harm. So I sent messengers to them, saying "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you? But they sent me this message four times, and I answered them in the same manner".*

So here you have the works just about done. Everything is up but the gates, the securing of the doors. And now the tactics that the enemy had tried weren't successful. But now they are trying a different one. When you look at this word "Ono" its just a plain, a valley. It's halfway between Samaria and Jerusalem. It was a valley known for craftsmen. So now they are trying a different tactic. They want to kill him. They want to do him harm. They want to destroy him and 3 areas they will attack Nehemiah in, in our verse: the first is in his work, they want him to compromise. When you look at these guys, I call them "The Pep Boys of Satan", Manny, Moe & Jack. So the 3 guys that are coming against Nehemiah's work, they want him to meet on the plane of Ono. The compromise is this: if you look at it even on a map "would you meet us halfway. Come let's get together and we'll meet halfway". And it's like that when you start to get passionate about serving the Lord, isn't it. "Oh, you're getting quite zealous. Maybe you should just back off a bit. People think you are a little bit weird". It's like I rather be a fool for Christ than a dead doornail in the wall.

Why would you pull back to cater to the unbelieving world or to cater to Satan's desire to shift you as wheat. And why would you meet anybody halfway. Instead of saying "The Lord's calling me this way, he's called me to a great work and I'm not going to move. I'm committed to the work".

Satan is working, the enemy is working "if you can't beat them, you can always join them and then you can destroy them from the inside". So to make a compromise, to make a deal where one person gives up something in order to placate the other party. And usually what you give up is your original goal. I don't know if you ever noticed this but God stirs your

heart and says “I’ve made you for this. I want this for you” and you begin to pursue it. And the opposition comes against you fast and furriest, doesn’t it. Then it gets to the point you say “man, this is killing me”. Good, because it will cause you to lean on the Lord more. But as that happens the call is always to compromise. Satan comes along and offers you a compromise. And it sounds rational to you. But what it does is take you off the goal and puts you onto something else. And now you are like “well, I’m still doing a good work, I’m just not doing what God told me to do”. Well then you are not doing “a good work” at all. You are being distracted. You are being diverted. You’re being pulled away from fruitfulness into productivity. And God is looking for fruit not abundance of productivity. But faithfulness and fruitfulness and His glory, not your own. Compromise often comes first and foremost in the area of truth. Compromise the truth. This the area, quite frankly, we can never compromise on.

I saw at this conference I was at, there was this poster in the back that I wrote down the words. It said “Theological famine relief, the word of God”. I thought that was incredible awesome. It struck me so much because so many people are willing to abandon the truth under the guise of something else. Let’s just go for “felt needs” instead of truth. Because the reality is you can massage people “felt needs” for most people don’t feel their real need for the Lord. But under the guise of we’re doing ministry, we are just massaging people’s “felt needs”. We’re helping this group of people or that group of people or we’re doing this or that. You know what, you are not doing a great work if that is what you are doing. Because you are meeting their “felt needs” all the way to hell. Instead of “I’ll meet any need if you let me give you Christ or you see that I am doing it for His sake. Because that’s why I would do it and I want to earn the right to share that with them. But Jesus Christ has to be the goal”. Otherwise it’s not a great work.

At that conference I talked to a guy at the canopy and “I said I’m really liking your banner”. And he gave me this quote “If Jesus had preached the same message that most ministers preach today, he never would have been crucified”. That struck me and I hope it strikes a cord with you. Don’t ever, ever compromise in the area of truth. God’s word is living and active and it accomplishes what He ordains as it goes forth - so make sure you throw it out there on every occasion. It will do something.

So in Nehemiah they are attacking his compromising or his work. Next they are going to attack his walk or they are going to start to slander him. *Nehemiah 6:5-9: "Then Sanballat sent his servant to me as before, the fifth time, (come to Ono, and Nehemiah is going "oh no, I'm not coming to Ono, it's a no go with me. Oh no to Ono, is a no go for me. I'm not leaving this work. It's a great work. I'm not going to get distracted) with an open letter in this hand. (the open letter is distinctive. The Persians and Syrians sealed their letters. They rolled it up and sealed it so no one could open it but these guys decided to send an open letter. Why? So everybody would read it. They are trying to discredit Nehemiah. They are trying to slander him, to make him look bad) In it was written: It is reported among the nations, and Geshem says, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore, according to these rumors, you are rebuilding the wall, that you may be their king;. And you have also appointed prophets to proclaim concerning you at Jerusalem, saying "There is a king in Judah!" Now think of this, part of what was going on here was they were assuming that the Jews would have a Messiah and Nehemiah must be the guy because he is empowered by God. He was so you have a little of truth with a lot of lie. And they are trying to bring accusation against him. Now these matters will be reported to the king. So come, therefore, and let us consult together. Then I sent to him, saying "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart". For they all were trying to make us afraid, saying, "Their hands will be weakened in the work, and it will not be done". And what's Nehemiah's response? Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands".* Every time he saw an attack, he responds with prayer and action. He knows God's word, he knows God's way, he understands what God wants from him and he is not going to be distracted or turned back under any circumstance or for any reason. So this open letter is very intimidating for the result or hope of it would be that everybody along the way would take a read of it and say "wow, was Nehemiah really like that? Is he really a self promoter? Is he really trying to make himself king? What do you think?" So it's intent was to hurt him. To discredit him to cause a rebellion against him. So that they can kill him.

This is the way the enemy works in our life. To work in us in such a way to try and discredit the person. So they laughed a few weeks ago when they started the work and now they are attacking the people. You ever hear "what that person is doing really bothers me". Seriously they have been here 9 years, you've sat next to them for 9 years and you never said anything about it till today. So for 9 years it never bothered you but somehow today

it does! Why? Are you not unaware of Satan's schemes. Do you not see his intentions is to stir dissention with your brethren? God is doing a great work - don't get off the wall. Stay at it. God is going to do great, great, great things if we don't get apart from His work and start doing something else.

It seemed that they were first concerned about Nehemiah "oh, Nehemiah we were so concerned about you. We care about you". Really, the Lord is telling me you are trying to kill me. "No, we love you. We want to help you with your work". Well, you were laughing and saying a fox was going to knock it over. But now that you see it, now you are trying to discredit me.

The 2nd thing is they wanted him to respond out of fear. They didn't want him trusting in the Lord. They didn't want him standing firm. They wanted to make him afraid. And that is obviously one of Satan's tactics with all of us as individuals and as a church. "Get afraid. I'm going to destroy you. You can't win. There's no hope". So Satan's intent is to make you fearful. But God's perfect love casts out fear. The opposite of fear isn't courage, it's love. Perfect love casts out fear. The Lord will insure the victory. You stand firm in what He has called you to do.

The 3rd part is that blurb in the letter about Nehemiah maybe being the Messiah and so they are trying to set him up: "yeah, you've got prophets saying you are going to be the king. So is that like the Messiah king? Who do you think you are Nehemiah, do you think you are the guy? Who do you think you are, you're nobody". It's these attacks against him.

Have you ever been to a place called the "Slander Resort"? I actually found this picture online. There really is a place called "Slander Resort". So I love Sanballat's letter to him "it's been reported" or "they say" or "I have heard". My comment is when people come to me with that I ask first of all who is the "they" and the response I usually get is "well, people are saying such and such". I say "is it possible that what you just said is your cowardly way of using other people to bring what you really want to say but you don't have enough courage to say it? And you want to blame it on somebody else?" Their response is usually "I can't break their confidence". I go "you're breaking it now by talking to me about it". You feel it, don't you. The intend is to come and talk smack about somebody to discredit the work. God begins to do a great work and all of

a sudden people start to get bothered about something. When nothing ever bothered them before. The reality is don't go there. God is doing a great work. Don't get distracted. Don't get pulled from it. The same kind of comments come "did you hear this about that person" and I always try to nip it and say "I just don't want to hear it. I don't want to leave God's work to listen to it". I had one guy tell me one time "well people seem to trust me with this stuff". And I said "seriously, is that your excuse? Let me tell you what people trust you with, they trust you to be their garbage man to deliver their trash talk and dump it on somebody. That's what they trust you with. That's what they are after, don't do it anymore".

So slander is an attack that usually happens against somebody who actually is moving and trying to accomplish something. And the enemy stirs up that pot. And a Christian who has discernment just doesn't go there. I think for all us going forward we need to be very discerning. We need to say "you know what, God is doing a good work, I'm focusing on my area of responsibility and I'm sticking at it. And I'm not getting distracted on what's the donut of the week or lack thereof. I want to focus on God being glorified. I want to see God work." It's great to see God work in our midst. My encouragement to you is to not allow that particular topic - don't go to the "Slander Resort". Scripture is very clear how you deal with people. If you have an issue go to Matthew 2:18 - go to them, talk to them, get it resolved.

So in the 3rd thing with Nehemiah they want to attack his creditability or his witness. That's in *Nehemiah 6:10-13*: "*Afterward I came to the house of Shemaiah (now Shemaiah is a priest, but he is not a prophet. He's a profit because he is employed by the enemy to bring a false prophesy against him)*

Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, at night they will come to kill you. And I said (this is what's great about Nehemiah) "Should such a man as I flee? And who is there such as I who would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!" Then I perceived that God had not sent him at all, but that he pronounced this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. For this reason he was hired, that I should be afraid and act that way and sin, so that they might have cause for an evil report, that they might reproach me".

Here's the next thing. You begin to see God do a work, right? And God

is doing the work. I'm watching all these things happen in Nehemiah's life and I'm watching around me in other areas and think "this is so crazy because it is so real". The thought here is "Nehemiah come and hide in church. Let's hide in church. Ok, God's doing something small but let's just keep it here. Let's close the doors and have a good old boy meeting and it's just us and we'll just snuggle up in here and not worry about it". Instead of "I want to go out there and take it to people. I want to bring people to the Lord, I want to use the gifts that I have for His glory. I want to be used by Him in such a way that my joy is full and He receives the honor that He is due. And I want to see Him move in my friends and family. I want to see it go beyond just our little click". The same thought came up "just hid in church. Don't get too excited or too hopeful that God might do something. Just keep it there, keep it contained, keep a lid on it. And just be the frozen chosen, and just deal with it, stay there"!

So this thing is "no, God is doing a great work and maybe he'll do a work more than we can even imagine that it flows out to lives of people in various communities around here". That would be worth giving your life for. To see people come to know him who otherwise has nobody in their life as a Christian. Has nobody in their life who has the message of truth. Has nobody in their life who is discerning. Has nobody in their life who has hope, real hope. And the enemy comes and says "don't take it to anybody else. It hasn't really done much for you. Forget it". It tries to pull you into a religious environment that says "just keep yourself in the church and don't get too zealous. And the purpose of the enemy is to cause you to sin so it discredit's the witness if you ever gave it".

That's what they wanted with Nehemiah. They wanted him to sin so that they could discredit him and say "look at Nehemiah, he comes into the house of the Lord" then in verse 11 "should such a man as I flee". It's basically saying "do you think I am a chicken? Do you think I am going to drop the ball on my watch? Do you think that God didn't tell me to do this work? Do you think I made it up in my head? I'm not doing it because it is easy, I'm doing it because it is right. And I'm not going to abandon it even if somebody comes to me and says "thus saith the Lord". So Shemaiah is probably somebody that Nehemiah respected or he wouldn't have gone to see him. But you test everything that someone comes to you and says "hey, the Lord told me to tell you such and such". It's like "really, the Lord didn't tell me that!" Well, maybe your heart is just hardened. It's like "no for what you are telling me is not lining up with the

book”. So it isn’t from the Lord, and that’s what Nehemiah understood. He discerned two flaws in this priest’s prophecy.

First, God isn’t going to ask you to abandon the work when God is doing the work. He’s not going to say “well Nehemiah you are almost done now just go away. We got 2/3 of the way there, that’s good enough. Forget it, pack up”. So Nehemiah knew that wasn’t God’s way.

Secondly, no prophet would ever ask somebody to violate God’s word. *Numbers 18:7* “*The outsider who comes near shall be put to death*”. The temple was for the priest. And it’s the same lie they tried to pull on Jesus. They tried to get Him to violate the word of God so they could accuse Him. “Jesus, should he pay taxes to Caesar or not? Jesus, is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?”. Scripture says they did this to trick Him. They wanted Nehemiah or Jesus to violate the word of God so they could say “Ah, ha, God has not been with him. God has not told him to do that. He’s making it up in his own head. We’re the people who are right”. And so the enemy attacks us in all those areas and he wants us to get off the wall and mess around with trivial issues. And he has done that in all our lives. And if we are not discerning he will continue to do it.

For such a time as this God has put each of us in this place. For such a time as this God has bought you to a place of saying “you know what Lord, I want to follow you, I want to be part of your work, I want to see you do a great thing, I know that your word says that “your eye goes out throughout the whole earth to show yourself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are directed towards you. And I want my heart directed towards you. I want to be used by you. And I want to see you move in my family and my friends and my neighborhood and in my church. I want to see you move in my life and I want my life to be a river of life to people.” And God says “I can get behind that. But don’t get distracted when I start to do a work for as soon as you desire to do the work, up comes the laughter. “Oh, you’ve been a Christian for 20 years, nothing has really happened in your life. Are you seriously thinking God is going to do something with you?”

Haggai was 90 years old when he gave his first prophecy about the temple. I don’t see anybody in here 90. He started at 90. You guys all have him beat. So what will happen if I don’t get distracted? What happens if I don’t give up? What’s the result of their diligence of completing their

work?

They completed it in 52 days. Nehemiah had a heart for God's word, right? So you better believe that in the 52 days they kept the Sabbath, right? They didn't work on the Sabbath. But they completed the work in 52 days. It's really kind of unbelievable. *Nemehiah 6:15-16: "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God"*.

I'm going to share what I believe God stirred in me to tell you. God will do a work in here which you have no concept of. You have no idea. "Behold I do a new thing", the Lord said, "do you not perceive it". He wants to do a great work here. He wants you to be included in His great work. But He's giving you a heads up not to get distracted when He starts to do the work. Don't fall prey to any of Satan's schemes. Don't turn on each other, don't turn to the left or turn to the right. Stay focused on the call that God has given you. From start to finish encourage yourself not to be fearful. Continue in prayer to do the work in one hand, and a weapon in the other hand. And that's the Nehemiah motto. As you do that you will see God do a work, and everyone will know that the Lord is the one who did it. If you keep to His way.

Let me give you an illustration. If you walk by and see 3 construction workers. And you ask the 3 people, "what are you doing?". The first one might say "I'm earning my wages". The second one might say "I'm laying brick". Both of them are true so far. The third person says "I am building a skyscraper". Each one is doing the same thing. But two of them have a very small perspective of the importance of what they are doing. Each has a different sense of what they are doing. Only the third one understood the greatness of the task he was given.

Many Christians live their life and just say "well, I'm serving the Lord". That's good. "I'm walking with the Lord". That's great. But how many people can take the 3rd position "I'm being used by God to do great things". Oh, that's so boastful. Well, let him who boasts, boast in the Lord. Right? John was the one who said "he was the disciple that Jesus loved". Moses said "no one was more humble than me". What's wrong with saying "what do I do? God is using me to build His kingdom,

even though I deserve nothing. I boast in my weakness, that His hand might rest on me. I rejoice that He uses me at all". And see what God will do.

Do you understand the greatness of the task that God has called you to do? You're a last days Christian, given the Message of Reconciliation, with the power of the Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, sitting with His hand upon you saying "Go, Speak, Do". That's the task and many of us are just saying "I'm just laying brick. I'm earning my pay". Instead of saying "I'm part of God's kingdom building for His wonderful Son". And see their life as significant in the Lord's work. It is only significant if it's involved in the Lord's work. Everything else doesn't really matter.

I want to illustrate how this is important to you. *Nehemiah 6:3 "I am carrying on a great project, I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?"* Let me give you another example. I'm going to give you Jesus. Are we good with Him? *Matthew 27:39: "Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself. Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"* In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. Do you see the same thing, there's nothing new. *"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself. If he's the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him"*.

I wonder if Jesus thought of Nehemiah 6:3 "I am doing a great work, I cannot come down and I will not be diverted from what God has called me to do. For it is a great work".

You feel it don't you. You see it everywhere. All throughout the bible is the constant call, "I will be with you. Go, don't worry about what you are going to say. Don't worry about what you are going to eat or what you are going to drink or wear. I will be with you always even till the end of the age. Take my yoke upon you. Learn of me. Cast your cares on me, I care for you". The Lord calls his people into this relationship and says "I have a great work still to do. And for this very purpose I have created you".

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God prepared these things in advance that we would walk in. And that walking in them will be your joy. It will be everlasting reward. It will be

everlasting peace. To know the presence of the Lord upon your life like that and not to be pulled away.

So what did the Lord stir my heart to tell you this. God has called each of you, who know Him, to a great work. It is not insignificant because the Lord God Almighty is in it. He wants to do more than you can even imagine. He will do more than you can even imagine. You will be his instrument but you must have one great focus.

I have a quote, it's an ancient Greek saying. It says "He is formidable who does one thing. A man must have a fixed design or he will never have a steady course. Just as an instrument this is not tuned to a single note, so is a man whose spirit is not joined to a commanding name. In vain does a vessel or a boat launch forth from the harbor, if she has no port for which to stir and no helm by which to shape her. He is formidable who does one thing."

What does formidable look like. With the Apostle Paul "this one thing I know I have forsaken all to follow Him. One thing I do". God has called each of you to that one thing. Not a list of things. Not productivity. Fruitfulness, one thing. Do that one thing He has called you and He will be with you. His hand will be upon you and you will be mind boggling pleased by seeing Him work in ways you did not know. If you submit yourself to His call. That's it. Will you join Him in his work on the wall? And as you say "yes", do not ever leave it until the Lord tells you that you can get down.