**A Study of the Book of Nehemiah**

*Preparation for the Work – Faith*

**INTRO:**

In Ch. 1 we find that Nehemiah has become aware of the plight of God’s people and the ruin of God’s city. The fact that the city where God intended to display His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is almost more than Nehemiah can bear. He mourns, he fasts, he confesses sin and he asks God to intervene in the situation. Nehemiah’s burden is such that he knows he cannot remain in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ palace of Persia while his brethren suffer under such plight. But, before he goes to Jerusalem he must first go the King. What will the king think when Nehemiah asks for a leave of absence? Why should a pagan king care about the condition of a city outside of his kingdom? Will the king get angry and have Nehemiah executed? If he simply refuses the request, what should Nehemiah do? Like Nehemiah, when we set out to do a work for God there are usually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than answers. Often we know the “what”, but we seldom know the “how”, “when” or “what ifs”. Unfortunately far too often the unknowns of a situation cause us to forget the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the situation. Though we SAY we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God our ACTIONS seldom support that claim. Romans 1:17 says that “the just shall \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”. If we are to answer the call to become His instruments of change, we must be sure that we are doing so in a way that displays our faith and trust in Him.

* A Faith that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:1)

*Neh 2:1*

*2 And it came to pass in the* ***month Nisan****, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king,*

* A Faith that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:1-2)

*Neh 2:1-2*

*2 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence.*

*2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was* ***very sore afraid****,*

* A Faith that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:4)

*Neh 2:4*

*4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request?* ***So I prayed to the God of heaven***

* A Faith that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:5-8)

*Neh 2:5-6*

*5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight,* ***that thou wouldest send me unto Judah****, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.*

*6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.*