

Nehemiah's Opposition
Sep 6-7, 2018
Nehemiah 4:1-23

Introduction:

- I. **Opposition is a g_____.** (vv. 2-3, 7-8, 11, 12)
 - a. From the enemy expect a_____ and a_____:
 1. Sneaky
 2. Destructive
 3. Seeking to “put an end to the work”
 - b. From well-meaning people of God you *might* expect
F_____, w_____, and d_____.

- II. **God's people p_____ and w_____.** (vv. 4-6)
 - a. Don't retaliate.
 - b. Properly use imprecatory prayer.
 - c. Work with all your heart.

- III. **God's people rely on G_____ and o_____ another.** (vv. 9, 13-14, 20)
 - a. The beauty of Divine Sovereignty
 - b. The necessity of Human Responsibility

Conclusion:

Questions for reflection or small group discussion

- Where have you experienced opposition in your life?
- Where might our church be experiencing opposition *right now*?
- How does the enemy sneak into your walk with Christ? How does he seek to kill? How does he succeed in halting your work for the Kingdom?
- How have well-meaning Christians deterred you from doing what you know God has called you to do?
- Imprecatory Psalms (e.g. 12; 35; 58; 69; 109; 140) have a distinct sting – how might you *faithfully* pray some this week?
- How do we best support one another's work? Vocationally? Service in the church?
- The Christian life is a “both-and”, relying on God and one another. How are you currently struggling to trust God? How do you currently need help from a fellow believer?
- With regard to pastoral succession, are you praying daily for the Elders?

Resources for personal and corporate spiritual growth:

- For help understanding imprecatory Psalms better, read Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2014. Print. “The proper function of [imprecatory] psalms, then, is to help us not to be “overcome by evil” but to free us from our anger, that we might “overcome evil with good” (Rom 12:21).” (222)
- Corporate Prayer for FCC's Pastoral Succession – October 14 @ 5p.