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# ***BIBLE INSIGHT***

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

Volume 8, Issue: December 2005

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## **Lord, Strengthen My Hands**

by Dee Bowman

*(Nehemiah 6:1-9) "Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, "Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono." But they were planning to harm me. So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"*

*They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way. Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. "You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'A king is in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together."*

*Then I sent a message to him saying, "Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind." For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, "They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands. "*

Nehemiah took upon himself to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. As we have previously seen, it was an awesome task, one which required intense planning and determined leadership. He supplied both; but not without opposition. He had enemies, dedicated enemies. No matter

*Continued on page two...*

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## **church of Christ at Beverly Shores**

Sun. 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes  
Sun. 10:30 a.m.—Worship  
Sun. 6:00 p.m.—Worship  
Wed. 7:00 p.m.—Bible Classes

1318 Griffin Road  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
352-365-9946

## **Welcome Visitors!**

We are glad to have you visiting with us today, because you are part of our goals. This may sound odd, but please let us explain. Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and to glorify Him in all that we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)

God will always be our number one priority, but the Bible speaks of secondary goals that this church also recognizes. Today, we consider you our honored guest, and hope to prove ourselves welcoming and hospitable. In fact, we hope that you can tell we are loving.

**1 Timothy 1:5 says: "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."**

Because this is our goal as well, we hope that you can see love in our teaching. We hope you can see people with pure hearts, a good conscience, and faith that is totally genuine. Only then will we really be doing our job.

So please, stay a while after services so we can greet you. Feel free to take a welcome packet with you as you leave, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Helping you is part of our goals.

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**From page one...**

the project, some will oppose it. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are ye when men revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.” Those who serve well will find opposers. Like Sanballat and Tobiah, they may ridicule and make fun of your efforts. If that doesn’t work, they may use other means to put barriers in your way; but don’t despair. God sees; and He cares. Use Nehemiah’s example:

**Determine to finish.** If you always look toward the goal, you are more likely to make progress toward it. Don’t be deterred by those who oppose you. Keep on keeping on.

**Underline the importance of your work.** The work of God is the most important of all work. As such, it deserves a person’s most intense concentration. Keep on keeping on.

**Ask God to help.** In verse ten of this text “...they made us afraid... now therefore O God, strengthen my hands.” If you invite God’s help that means He will be a participant. Be sure you are right, then go to the work. Keep on keeping on. God will help.

Will you keep on shining your light? Will you keep on correcting your children? Will you keep on stirring others up to love and good works? With God’s help, the answer is YES!

## **My Shepherd**

**By Jason Moore**

The words of familiar passages are easily passed over if we’re not mindful. The preventative for such neglect is to revisit them afresh.

**The Lord is Shepherd.** He is *my* Shepherd. I have no need that will be left unsupplied. Some wants certainly, some pleasures assuredly. But needs, never. *Trust Him today for all I need.*

**The Shepherd knows when and where it is safe to rest and what waters are safe to drink or to cross.** He knows how much I can take and just what is needed to revive my strength. He knows the way, the right way. *Follow His lead today.*

**The Shepherd knows the dangers that lurk about.** He knows that the Devil is alive and well. He knows how dumb we sheep can be and what trouble we get ourselves into. He knows better than me the shadow of death. *Stay close to Him today.* He’s been here before and knows the way.

**There will be wolves abroad today.** Some behind trees. Some in sheep’s clothing. The Shepherd knows their disguises, their devices, their aims. He can take care of the enemy and the detractors better than me. He’ll not abandon me to their aims. *Wait on Him today.*

Today will be hard. And so will tomorrow. And the day after that. *Concentrate on today.* Stay with the Shepherd. Follow His lead. For one of these days will wind up eternity. And won’t that be just fine?

*(Psalms 23:1-6) “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.*

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.*

*Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. “*

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**“He can take care of the enemy and the detractors better than me.”**

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