

ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

Neh. 2:20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore **we his servants will arise and build:** but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Our theme this year is *“Arise and Build.”* We have been considering the Book of Nehemiah which is a perfect example in implementing our theme.

I. THE INQUIRY OF THE SITUATION, 1:1-3

II. THE INTERCESSION OF THE SERVANT, 1:4-11

III. THE INVOLVEMENTS OF THE SOVEREIGNS, 2:1-20

IV. THE INDIVIDUAL SPECIFICATIONS, 3:1-31

V. THE INTRICATE STRUGGLES, 4:1-6:19

VI. THE INCLUSION FOR SPIRITUALITY, 7:1-10:39

A. The Beloved Congregation, 7:1-73

B. The Bible Conference, 8:1-18

C. The Bitter Confession, 9:1-10:39

- Conviction of sin (ch. 8) led to
- Confession of sin (ch. 9) and resulted in a
- Covenant with God (ch. 10).

VII. THE INTERMEDDLING OF SITUATIONS, 11:1-13:31

A. How It Was Commenced, 11:1-12:26

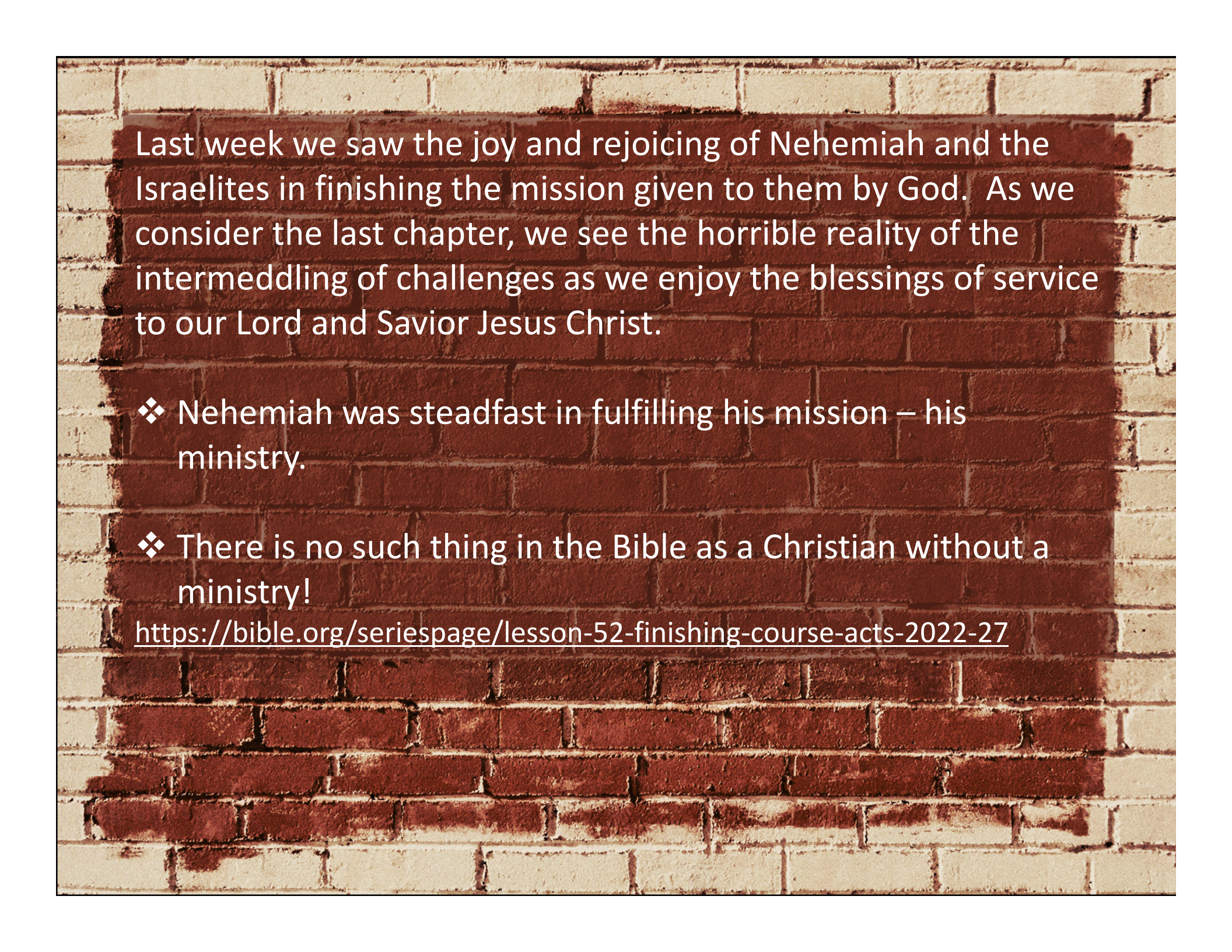
1. Responsiveness, 11:1-36

2. Responsibility, 12:1-26

- ❖ The completion of the mission was the result of faithful leadership and faithful service, vs. 1-25 gives the list of those who fulfilled their responsibilities.

B. How It Was Completed, 12:27-13:31

1. Dedicating the Site, 12:27-47



Last week we saw the joy and rejoicing of Nehemiah and the Israelites in finishing the mission given to them by God. As we consider the last chapter, we see the horrible reality of the intermeddling of challenges as we enjoy the blessings of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Nehemiah was steadfast in fulfilling his mission – his ministry.
- ❖ There is no such thing in the Bible as a Christian without a ministry!

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-52-finishing-course-acts-2022-27>

Eph. 4:7 But **unto every one of us** is given grace according to **the measure of the gift of Christ.**

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of **every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

1 Pet. 4:10 As **every man** hath received the gift, **even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards** of the manifold grace of God.

- ❖ The completion of God's mission for our lives does not make us immune from future challenges.

2. Dividing via the Scriptures, 13:1-3

Neh. 13:1 On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite **should not come into the congregation of God for ever**;

2 Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing.

3 Now it came to pass, when they had heard the law, **that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.**

Deut. 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

4 Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and **because they hired against thee Balaam** the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee.

5 Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee.

- ❖ The truth of the Word of God will produce convictions that includes separation from worldliness and compromise.
- ❖ The separation was needed as spiritual leadership had diminished when Nehemiah was gone.
- ❖ Tolerance to unscriptural doctrine will lead to unspiritual deeds = COMPROMISE!

3. Defiling the Sanctuary, 13:4-9

- (1) **PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FAITHFULNESS** (13:4-9).

Neh. 13:4 And before this, **Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah:**

5 And **he had prepared for him a great chamber,** where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded *to be given* to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests.

6 **But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem:** for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king:

7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that **Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.**

8 And **it grieved me sore**: therefore **I cast forth all** the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither **brought I again the vessels of the house of God**, with the meat offering and the frankincense.

❖ Improper faithfulness looks somewhat spiritual, but, in reality, it is NOT.

Titus 1:16 **They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him**, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

2 Tim. 3:5 **Having a form of godliness**, but denying the power thereof: **from such turn away.**

- ❖ While Nehemiah was gone back to see King Artaxerxes, Eliashib made an executive decision without consulting him, v. 6 – “**But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem**: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king...”
- ❖ Eliashib the priest usurped authority and made an evil decision regarding God’s house, v. 7 – “And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that **Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.**”
- ❖ Nehemiah’s response was grief, then decisiveness, v. 8 – “And **it grieved me sore**: therefore **I cast forth all** the household stuff of Tobiah out of the chamber.

❖ Corruption from bad decisions must undergo thorough cleansing, v. 9.

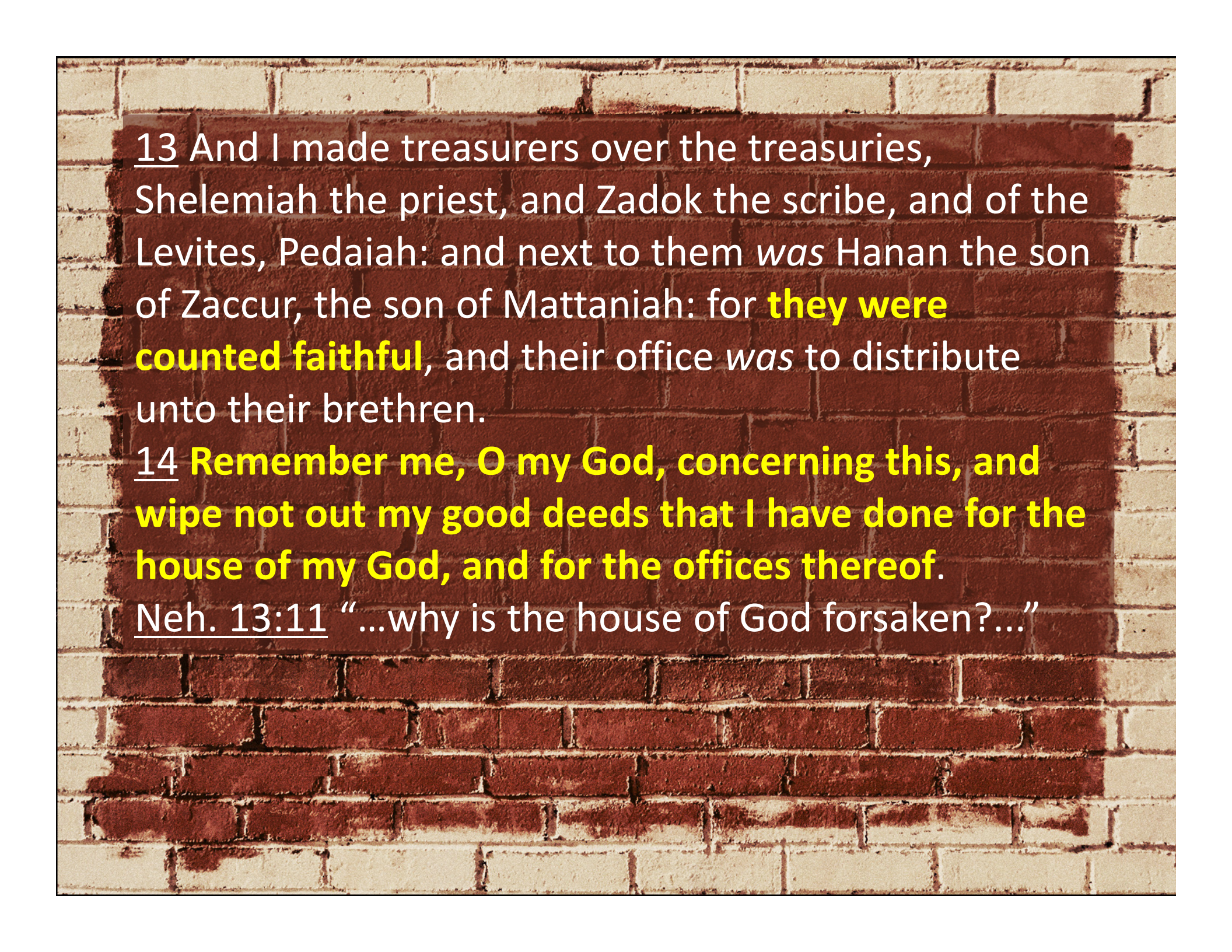
4. Deserting the Service, 13:10-14

(2) **PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FINANCES**
(13:10-14).

Neh. 13:10 And **I perceived** that the portions of the Levites had not been given *them*: for **the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.**

11 **Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken?** And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

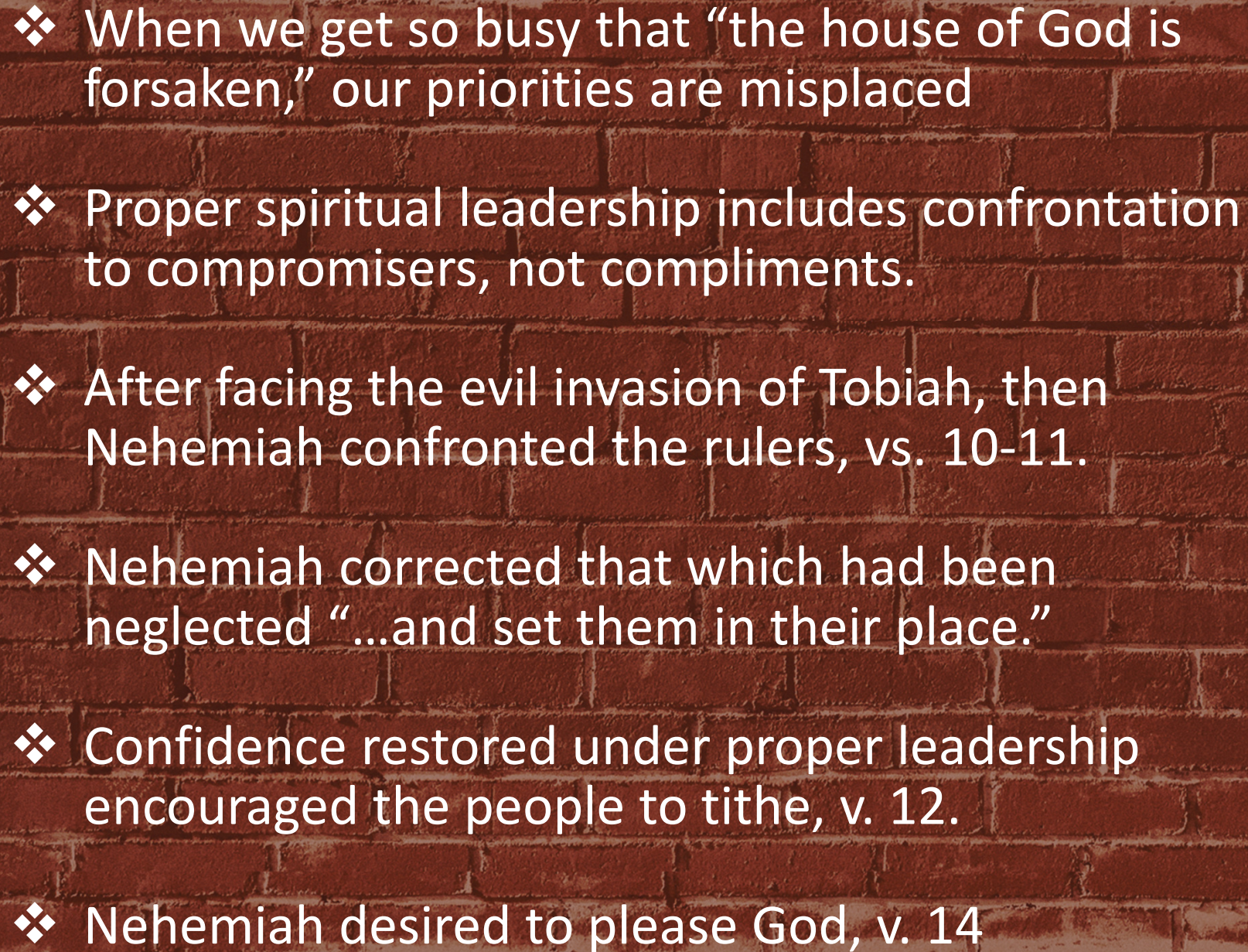
12 Then **brought all Judah the tithe** of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries.



13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them *was* Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for **they were counted faithful**, and their office *was* to distribute unto their brethren.

14 **Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.**

Neh. 13:11 “...why is the house of God forsaken?...”

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- ❖ When we get so busy that “the house of God is forsaken,” our priorities are misplaced
 - ❖ Proper spiritual leadership includes confrontation to compromisers, not compliments.
 - ❖ After facing the evil invasion of Tobiah, then Nehemiah confronted the rulers, vs. 10-11.
 - ❖ Nehemiah corrected that which had been neglected “...and set them in their place.”
 - ❖ Confidence restored under proper leadership encouraged the people to tithe, v. 12.
 - ❖ Nehemiah desired to please God, v. 14

Phil. 2:13 For it is **God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.**

Heb. 11:6 But **without faith *it is impossible to please him***: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

5. Desecrating the Sabbath, 13:15-22

(3) **PERMISSIVENESS BECAUSE OF IMPROPER FRACTIONATION** (13:15-22).

- Chick-fil-A is now the third-largest restaurant chain in America by system-wide sales, according to Nation's Restaurant News data.
- Chick-fil-A moved up from the No. 7 spot on last year's Top 200 ranking, passing Wendy's, Burger King, Taco Bell, and Subway. <https://www.businessinsider.com/chick-fil-a-third-largest-restaurant-chain-in-america-2019-6>

Neh. 13:15 In those days saw I in Judah *some* treading wine presses **on the sabbath**, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all *manner of* burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem **on the sabbath day**: and I **testified against them** in the day wherein they sold victuals.

16 There dwelt men of Tyre also therein, which brought fish, and all manner of ware, and sold **on the sabbath** unto the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

17 **Then I contended with the nobles of Judah**, and said unto them, **What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?**

18 Did not your fathers thus, and did not our God bring all this evil upon us, and upon this city? yet ye bring more wrath upon Israel by profaning the sabbath.

19 And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and *some* of my servants set I at the gates, *that* there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.

21 **Then I testified against them**, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? **if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you**. From that time forth came they no *more* on the sabbath.

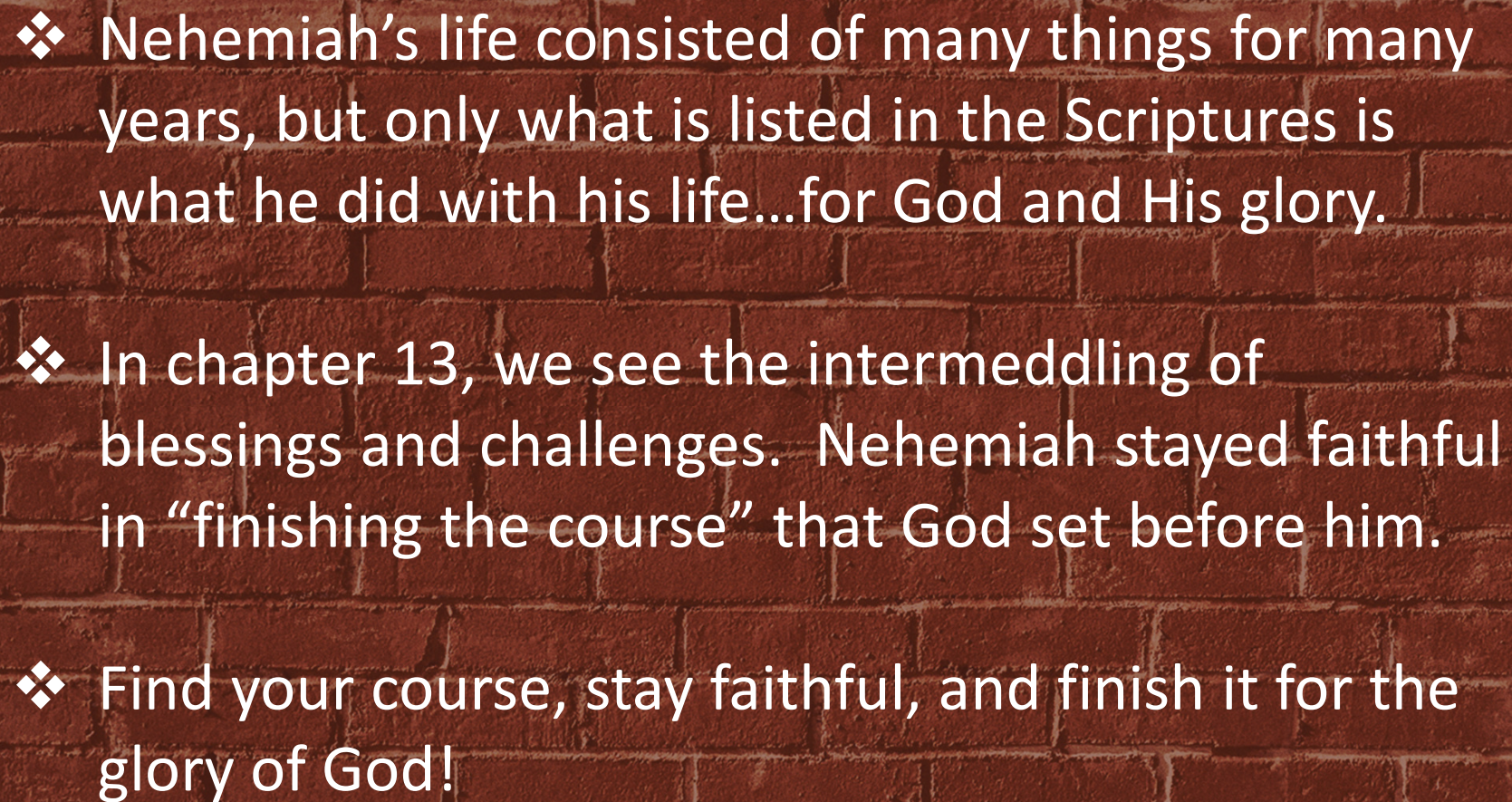
22 And I commanded the Levites that they should **cleanse themselves**, and *that* they should come *and* keep the gates, to sanctify the sabbath day. **Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.**

- ❖ What can motivate us to “finish the race” when facing obstacles?
- ❖ We must be motivated to please the One Who called us into His service.
- ❖ Nehemiah was dedicated to being faithful to the Lord, His work, and to His will.

Neh. 13:14 **Remember me, O my God**, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof. ...

22 “...**Remember me, O my God**, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.”

31 And for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, O my God, for good.**

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- ❖ Nehemiah's life consisted of many things for many years, but only what is listed in the Scriptures is what he did with his life...for God and His glory.
 - ❖ In chapter 13, we see the intermeddling of blessings and challenges. Nehemiah stayed faithful in “finishing the course” that God set before him.
 - ❖ Find your course, stay faithful, and finish it for the glory of God!

Conclusion

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself**, so that I might finish my course with joy, and **the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus**, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2 Tim. 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which **the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**