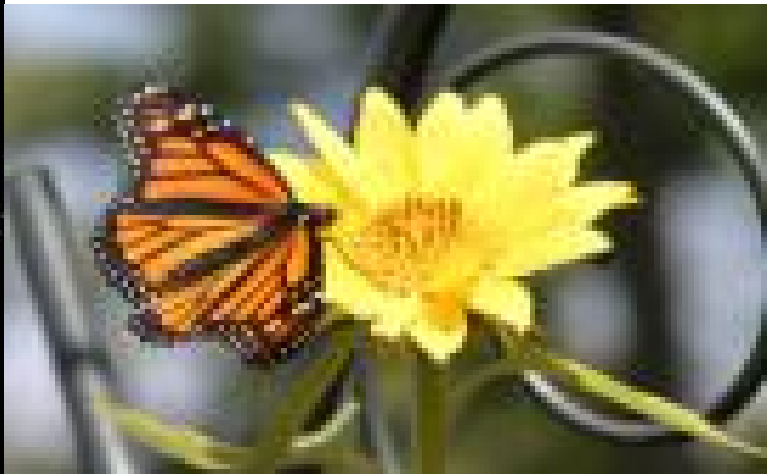
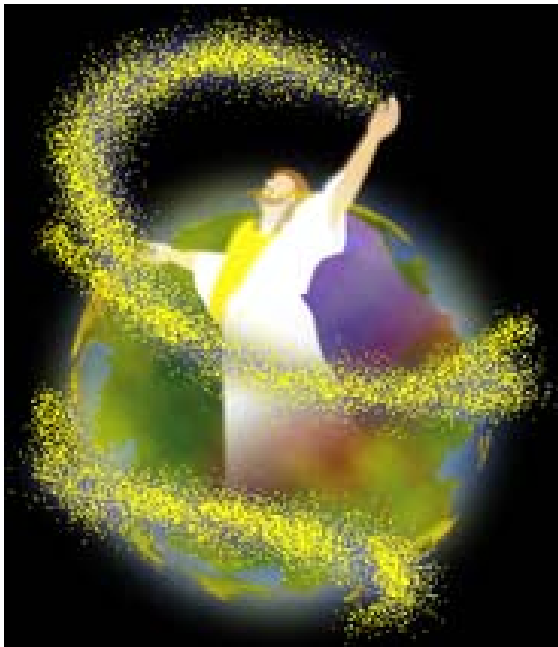


**Community Builders 14**  
**Living for God's Glory**



Sunday 24 July 2005

# Community Builders 14

## Living for God's Glory

**Remember me, O my God, for good.**

**(Nehemiah 13:31)**

- **Keep Looking to God**

3 times in Chapter 13 Nehemiah asks God to remember him v14, v22, v31.

Nehemiah's focus has been upon God and his purposes. Reading the account of Nehemiah makes you aware that following God has not been easy. It is evident that more than pleasing anyone else he wanted to please God.

The Apostle Paul reminds us

Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him. (Colossians 3:17)

Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving, and you know that he will reward you. (Colossians 3:23-24)

- **Keep Living for God**

The journey begins in Persia when Nehemiah hears of the plight of his people in Jerusalem (Neh 1). From there he journeys to Jerusalem with the support of the king

and along with the people rebuilds the wall and the community (Chapters 2- 13.3.) He then has to return to Persia and when he returns old habits had returned. Tobiah was in the temple storehouses, the worship of God in the temple had come to a halt, the Sabbath was being desecrated through trade and once again the people had engaged in unhelpful relationships, so much so that their Jewish identity and culture was being lost.

Once again it's Nehemiah who rebuilds the community and helps the community to be where God desires them to be.

We see so clearly that Nehemiah's life was continually focussed upon living for God, not intermittently but continually.

Peter encourages us as Christians

But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

- **Keep Loving God**

Nehemiah, I believe, continued to have a love for God and his life displays that he wanted to live for God's honour

"LORD God of Heaven! You are great, and we stand in fear of you. You faithfully keep your covenant with those who love you and do what you command.  
(Nehemiah 1:5)

Listen now to my prayer and to the prayers of all your other servants who want to honour you. ... (Nehemiah 1:11)

Paul reminds us that without love we miss the whole point of serving God

I may be able to speak the languages of human beings and even of angels, but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell. I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith needed to move mountains ... but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned ... but if I have no love, this does me no good. (1 Corinthians 13: 1-3)

When Nehemiah asks God to remember him for good, I believe he is not only praying that God would take note but somehow God would care for him in the future.

For us as Christians, eternal life is about living with God's life inside us now but it is also about sharing eternity with him and those who love him. In the words of simple chorus

**Heaven is a wonderful place  
Filled with glory and grace  
I'm going see my Saviour's face  
Heaven is a wonderful place.**

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