

Ministry in the Fear of God

Introduction

- “**Ministry & Financial Problems**” Money & wealth are not evil – from God (Deu. 8:17-18).
- God instructs believers in godly ways to acquire money & He warns regarding unacceptable ways (Eph. 4:28; Pr. 31:13f..).
- God instructs believers in the purpose of money in order to be free – the love of money, false security, etc. (1Tim. 6:10, 17).
- The bible provides serious concerns & consequences of debt for the believer (Neh. 5:3-5).
- The bible also provides wisdom for the correction of debt so that the believer can enjoy true freedom in Christ (Phil. 4:11-13).

I. Standing in the Fear of God (v. 14-15)

A. Godly character (v. 14a-b)

The fear of God is essential for godly leadership (Pr. 1:7; 8:13 (hate evil); 10:27 (prolongs life); 14:26 (strong confidence); 15:16 (contentment). Nehemiah’s character, convictions & disciplines were recognized as leadership qualities by the world – “I was appointed...” (Pr. 18:16; 22:29). Godly character must be proven over a period of time (twelve years). A pastor is not to be a “recent convert” & a deacon is to be “tested first” (1Tim. 3). All believers are to strive for blameless & holy character (Phil. 2:15).

B. Godly change (v. 14c-15)

Nehemiah was given an official role in government, but that did not change his godly convictions – “governor”. The former governors had a financial plan to selfishly take care of themselves, but Nehemiah changed the plan. People normally expect believers to accept traditions & policies of an organization once they join – compromise. A godly leader recognizes injustice & will correct it (v. 15) – “But I did not do so”. Legally the governor had the right to collect taxes from the poor for personal income, but Nehemiah did not. The fear of God makes any believer sensitive to injustice toward those who are poor, weak & defenseless (Ex. 22:21-24; Pr. 14:31; 19:17).

II. Sacrificing in the Fear of God (v. 16-19)

A. Love for God’s people (v. 16-18)

Nehemiah & his followers looked for ways to serve God’s people (ministry) rather than increase personal income (v. 16). A godly leader is willing to help & be hospitable to all people regardless of their socio-economic status in life (v. 17). Hospitality is a godly character trait for all believers (1Pe. 4:9; Mt. 25:35). A godly leader will make the necessary financial sacrifices to ensure the needs of God’s people are met (v. 18).

B. Love for God (v. 19)

A godly leader lives by faith and understands that the ultimate commendation & reward for service (ministry) comes from the Lord, not people. A godly leader understands that the ultimate commendation & reward comes in the next life, not this one (Mt. 5:12; 25:21 – “Well done...”). Every believer must have this same perspective.

ILL: A good military officer trains with his soldiers; experiencing the difficulties & sacrifices with his comrades. In combat, that officer’s life depends on the commitment of each soldier. A good boss will work overtime with his employees; experiencing the difficulties & sacrifices of subordinates. The success of the job depends of the commitment of each employee. The officer & soldiers are in the same war with the same goal – win. The boss & employees are on the same job with the same goal – finish. The officer, soldiers, boss & employees all need each other and they all report to someone in higher authority that motivates them to be faithful & do a good job.

APPL: The same is true in the kingdom of God. Regardless of our role, we must all be humble & willing to make the necessary sacrifices for the success of the gospel...

CONCLUSION

So then my beloved brothers & sisters, do you see the benefit of the fear of God in your life? Deliberately take a few minutes & think about the times the Holy Spirit convicted you that you should stand for Christ; for righteousness & for truth. Think about the times He convicted you not to compromise & speak up for something wrong or sinful. Think of the times when you did not want to get involved in someone's messy financial problems, but you felt compelled; did not want to get involved messy family, employment or church problems, but you were compelled – that's ministry in the fear of God. That fire & trouble in your soul that makes you aware of God's presence & compels you to act is the fear of God. The fear of God compels you to love & sacrifice for people; and it compels you to love & obey God. It truly is the beginning of wisdom. The beginning of wisdom is to know Jesus Christ; love Him; serve Him; worship Him; adore, praise, trust...Him! For He alone is worthy...

And if you are not a Christian, you can begin the journey of wisdom today. You too can find the great & eternal benefit of the fear of God. You cannot benefit from the fear of God until you come to love Jesus. Jesus will set you free from the fear of death; fear of punishment for your sins. You can be free today, but you must believe in Him.... Will you trust Him & believe today...?

SUBJECT: [Ministry in the Fear of God](#)

TEXT: [Nehemiah 5:14-19](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [November 11, 2012](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [1020](#)

FILE LOCATION: [Computer Sermons 4Q12](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)