

**Vision: Helping People Win In Life** (on the foundation of a Personal & Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ)



**Mission: Helping People Win In Life** through environments designed to help them take their next steps in Christian Maturity.

**Sunday, November 5, 2017**  
**Sermon Notes**

**“Overcoming the Haters”**  
**Pastor Bob Washington**

**Icebreaker:** What’s one way you express your appreciation to others for being a blessing?

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**Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 2:10-20; Read Nehemiah 4:1-23; Nehemiah 6:9,15-16**

<sup>10</sup> When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard about this, they were very much disturbed that someone had come to promote the welfare of the Israelites. <sup>11</sup> I went to Jerusalem, and after staying there three days <sup>12</sup> I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on. <sup>13</sup> By night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal<sup>[a]</sup> Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. <sup>14</sup> Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King’s Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; <sup>15</sup> so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. <sup>16</sup> The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work. <sup>17</sup> Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” <sup>18</sup> I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work. <sup>19</sup> But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?” <sup>20</sup> I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.”

**In Order to Rebuild and Overcome Opposition and Anger:**

**1. I Must, Walk in God’s Power**

Nehemiah 2:19 - But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. . “What is this you are doing?” they asked. “Are you rebelling against the king?”

Revelations 12:10 - Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.

Ephesians 3:20 - God “is able to do immeasurably more than all that we ask or imagine, according to his power at work within us”

**Question To Consider:** What does Nehemiah model for us?

**Notes:**

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## 2. I Must, Give God the Praise

Nehemiah 2:20 - <sup>20</sup> I answered them by saying, “The God of heaven will give us success.

Nehemiah 4:1-3 - <sup>1</sup>When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews, <sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, “What are those feeble Jews doing? <sup>3</sup> Tobiah the Ammonite, who was at his side, said, “What they are building—even a fox climbing up on it would break down their wall of stones!”

We proclaim how great you are and tell of the wonderful things you have done. (Psalm 75:1)

Praise the Lord, all people on earth, praise his glory and might. (1 Chronicles 16:28)

God is wise and powerful! Praise him forever and ever. (Daniel 2:20)

**Questions To Consider:** How does God’s word help you overcome opposition and keep you from staying angry?

**Notes:**

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## 3. I Must, Fervently Pray

Nehemiah 4:4-6 – <sup>4</sup> Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. <sup>5</sup> Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of<sup>[b]</sup> the builders. <sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.

**Questions To Consider:** What will you do to commit to praying continually?

**Notes:**

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### **Outline for Small Group (1 ½ hour)**

- I. **Welcome:** Ice Breaker, Light Refreshments (20 min)
- II. **Worship:** Sing 2 Songs, Pray (7 min)
- III. **Word:** Discussion /Overview from preached message & Discussion Questions (43 min)
- IV. **Works & Witness:** What will you do to **serve** others and/or **share** Christ with others? How can you **partner** with your Small Group and/or entire Church? (10 min)
- V. **Win (Testimony):** What next step have you taken or are taking toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus? *Connecting, Growing, Serving, Sharing, Worshipping* (5 min)
- VI. **Will (Vision & Prayer):** Share the Vision and Mission of CCMS & Pray (ACTS) – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication (5 min)