

Light and Life

Leaders and Workers

Under Nehemiah, the restorers of Jerusalem's wall completed construction in a mere fifty-two days, despite external interference and internal conflict (Neh. 6:15). Many leadership lessons can be learned from Nehemiah's example.

Workers need leaders to function well. Nehemiah put his life on the line when he asked for permission to travel and work on Jerusalem's wall (Neh. 2:5). Further still, Nehemiah asked Artaxerxes for timber from the king's forest, letters of diplomacy for protection, and an armed escort, along with the release of his countrymen to assist in the rebuilding of the wall (Neh. 2:7-9). These were big asks from a royal cupbearer!

As a leader, Nehemiah had to assess the work to be done (Neh. 2:12-16), motivate the people to do the work (Neh. 2:17-18), defend against enemies (Neh. 4), resolve internal conflict (Neh. 5:1-13), and maintain a positive example for the people to follow (Neh. 6:13).

Another lesson – leaders also need workers! After Nehemiah's initial 'motivational speech', the people "set their hands to this good work" (Neh. 2:18). It was because of this work ethic that the wall was halfway done before Israel's enemies knew what had happened (Neh. 4:6). Not all the work was pleasant (Neh. 3:13), but it was all necessary for the protection of God's people. Leaders of God's people have always needed dedicated workers – and leaders of God's people have always **been** workers! Nehemiah and his household got their hands dirty along with everyone else (Neh. 4:23)!

The same relationships between leaders and workers in the kingdom apply today. We still need leaders and followers who work! God organized the leadership of His church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Ep. 4:12). **So, let's get to work!**

- Sam Bunyard

Another Perspective

The Need for Honesty

Honest: derived from 'honor,' characterized by integrity or fairness. Upright; just; equitable; trustworthy; truthful; sincere; – the dictionary preaches sermon enough to embarrass most of us.

Having a 'policy' of honesty is shallow – it does not satisfy the demands of this noble characteristic. Our words, thoughts, and actions must spring from something more than 'policy' – they must express our very nature – an inner conviction that rebels at deceit.

An honest man cannot believe in the sufficiency of God's plan – for salvation, the church, its work, etc. – and then support another plan. He cannot believe that we must "*prove all things*" by God's word – and then refuse to measure his practices by that rule.

An honest man does not devise quibbles to escape the force of scripture. He does not shun information on any subject because he fears his previous conclusions may be affected – "My mind is settled; don't confuse me with the facts!"

It takes "*an honest and good heart*" to receive God's word in the first place; and "*honest behavior*" in the last place – to be a Christian (Lu 8:15; 1 Pe 2:12). And no amount of deception will fool God (Ga 6:7)!

- Robert Turner (edited for space)



ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30
Morning Assembly 10:30
Evening Assembly 5:00

Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

RADIO PROGRAM

The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.
KURM 790AM

Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447
201 W. Chestnut Street
Rogers, AR 72757
479-636-3575
www.downtowncoc.net



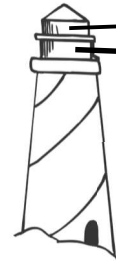
In everything
give thanks.

ELDERS:

Otis Hardin
Perry Johnson
Ken Parker
Alan Revier
GW Walsh

DEACONS:

TJ Burleson
Scott Hale
Jason Hill
Chris Johnson
Brock McKeel
Randy Potter
Tim Roberts
Randy Shell



DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

November 12, 2023

Are You Prepared for Jehu?

“You shall anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king over Israel... and it shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill.” - 1 Ki 19:16-17

As God prepared to bring judgment upon the ungodly house of King Ahab, Elijah was told to anoint Jehu for that purpose (‘Jehu’ means ‘He is Jehovah’). His would be the beginning of a new dynasty in Israel and the end of the evil Omri dynasty.

And Jehu did exactly what he was commissioned to do. He killed Ahab’s family, including the king himself, seventy of his descendants, and his wicked wife, Jezebel – in

addition to the wicked southern king of Judah. Jehu’s rapid advance to Jezreel was noted by a watchman: “his driving is like the driving of Jehu... for he drives furiously” (2 Ki 9:20). Clearly, Jehu was a man on a mission. He was God’s avenger, bringing the destruction that God had promised (1 Ki 21:20-26).

Those who rebel against God today have their own appointment with ‘Jehu’. Jesus will come “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Th 1:8). Are you prepared for the coming of Jehu?

- WKing

FAMILY NEWS

PRAYER LIST –

Preachers we support: Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

Sick: Fletchers, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, ADosier, ACorder

Shut-ins: Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, V Carter

Military: Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

DATES FOR 2024 – It’s not too early to mark your calendars: April 19-20 (Singing), July 21-25 (VBS), and August 2-4 (Youth Lectures).

SENTENCE SERMON – It takes courage to stand up and speak – and to sit down and listen!