

## Obstacles to Obedience

### Ezra 4:1-5

#### Intro: Jesus has told us John 16:33 (NKJV)

<sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

#### Matthew 5:11-12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### I. The Deception of Compromise with Unbelievers-v.1-3

#### 2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. **And from such people turn away!**

**A. What are they Called**-v.1...adversaries ...Samaritians-Assyrians that had mixed with Israelites

- Foe, enemy, oppressor...distant kinfolds

#### 1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Our greatest enemy of the day is COMPROMISE

The worldly church mentality says we must include all faiths and religions and **Compromise to find common ground** in the name of

evangelism. We are considered narrow minded, legalistic and unloving if we do not hold hands with unbelievers.

### B. What is their Claim

- **They Seek the same God**
- **They Sacrifice to the same God**

#### What did they really do?..

#### 2 Kings 17:25-34 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, *that* they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed *some* of them.

<sup>26</sup> So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

<sup>27</sup> Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

<sup>28</sup> Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

<sup>29</sup> However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put *them* in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, *every* nation in the cities where they dwelt.

<sup>30</sup> The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

<sup>31</sup> and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

<sup>32</sup> So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the

shrines of the high places.

<sup>33</sup> They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods--according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

<sup>34</sup> To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

2018 Pew Research: In the US

- 1/3 do not believe in the God of the Bible but do believe in a higher power or spiritual force...Karma etc.
- Only 56% of Americans say they believe in God "as described in the Bible"
- 80% say they believe in God (of some sorts)
- 28% of Catholics and 26% Protestants say they believe in God but *not necessarily* the One described in the Bible
- 66% of Adults 50 years old and up believe in the Biblical God
- 49% of those in 30's-40's believe in the Biblical God
- 43% of those under 30 believe in the Biblical God (largest part of population)
- Those under 50 believe in a less powerful and less involved God in earthly affairs
- Only 45% of college graduates believe in a Biblical God

The smarter we get the more loss we have become

- Only 33% of college graduates say God determines most or all of what happens in their lives

Most believe that the Lord is a sensitive loving grandfather that hands out blessings like Santa Claus to those who have been good and would not exclude anyone because of their faults...

I pray we see the immense need for Christ life Academy and Sunday School...

We stopped making Sunday School a priority and now we have over half of the population believing in a God that is not in the Bible

**C. The Cause-v.4..to discourage the work...to weaken the hands KJV**

**II. The Denying of Cooperating with Unbelievers-v.3..But Zerubabble**

- **Desire: Amos 3:3 (NKJV) ..**

<sup>3</sup> Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

- **Decline: Titus 3:9-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> But **avoid** foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

<sup>10</sup> **Reject** a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

<sup>11</sup> **knowing** that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

- **Discern: Romans 16:17-18 (NKJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Now I urge you, brethren, **note** those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and **avoid** them.

<sup>18</sup> For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus

Christ, but their own belly, and **by smooth words** and **flattering speech** deceive the hearts of the simple.

### III. The Discouraging Consistency of Unbelievers-v.4-5

#### A. Fatigue-discouraged means to let drop or weaken or wear down

- Satan in the Last Days Dan. 7:25
- Physically-2 Cor. 12:7..thorn in the flesh
- Spiritually-Judges 16:16
- Emotionally-Judges 16:17
- Mentally-Acts 16:17-18

#### B. Frighten-v.4-troubled them

##### Nehemiah 4:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> But it so happened, when Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, that he was furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish--stones that are burned?"

<sup>3</sup> Now Tobiah the Ammonite *was* beside him, and he said, "Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up *on it*, he will break down their stone wall."

##### Nehemiah 4:7-15 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that

they became very angry,

<sup>8</sup> and all of them conspired together to come *and* attack Jerusalem and create confusion.

<sup>9</sup> Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.

<sup>10</sup> Then Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is failing, and *there is* so much rubbish that we are not able to build the wall."

<sup>11</sup> And our adversaries said, "They will neither know nor see anything, till we come into their midst and kill them and cause the work to cease."

<sup>12</sup> So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, "From whatever place you turn, *they will be* upon us."

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I positioned *men* behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

<sup>14</sup> And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "**Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses.**"

<sup>15</sup> And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and *that* God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

#### C. Frustrated-hire counselors\lawyers

### V. 6..accusations

v. 13-14..traitors against the nation and thoughtless insensitivity-we receive supplies

1 Peter 3:16

**Conclusion: We must stand against Satan's silent erosion...Eph. 6:13..having done all STAND...Put on Jesus and Stand**

**We must understand how to say OH NO at ONO; Neh. 6:1-8**

**We will not leave the work of God to compromise holiness for unity..We would rather have fellowship with the world in the church than followship with God in the world.**

**It is time for our lives to match our lips... our convictions to line up with our conduct and overcome the obstacles to obedience...**