

“God Rebuilds What Was Lost” – Ezra, Nehemiah, & Malachi

Intro:

I. Rebuilding The Temple and The Wall –

- In the lower story the temple and walls of Jerusalem just look like physical structures needing rebuilding. But to the Lord they represent important upper story truths.
1. **The Temple** represents a forgiven people in Lord’s Presence
 - Hebrews 8:1-2, 5; 3:16
 2. **The Walls** represent a unified people with the Lord’s Protection
 - Nehemiah 1:11; 6:15-16, Psalm 122:3-4; 27:1

II. Rebuilding The Foundation Of God’s Word

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8-12, 17, Jeremiah 15:16

“It is as wrong to mourn when God has forgiven us as it is to rejoice when sin has conquered us.” – Warren Wiersbe

III. Rebuilding A Personal Relationship With God

- To rebuild broken relationships the LORD first exposes the cynics and then blesses those who trust him.

A. **Fault finding Cynics**

1. Doubting the Lord’s love - Malachi 1:2

2. Dishonoring our Father’s name - Malachi 1:6, 14
3. Being unfaithful to our spouses - Malachi 2:10, 13-15
4. Accusing God of injustice - Malachi 2:17
5. Robbing God - Malachi 3:7-8
6. Cynicism towards the Lord - Malachi 3:14

B. **Righteous believers and the Book of Remembrance**

- Malachi 3:16-17

C. **He is coming!**

- Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6

Devotion:

1. Is there anything that needs rebuilding in your life with God’s help?
2. How can you keep the foundation of God’s word strong in your life?
3. We all can become cynical towards God at times. Is there any area you are distrusting God or feeling contempt towards him for some reason? Ask forgiveness, put your faith in him, and then rejoice that you are his treasured possession!