

**November 11, 2007**

**Series: Transforming Our World for God**

**Message: #6 "Opposition Abounds: Keep Your Clothes On"**

**Scripture: Nehemiah 4**

**Introduction**

- When people get serious about God it seems that all of hell breaks loose.
- God's Word keeps this fact in front of us.
- What do we do when faced with resistance and opposition? (4:7-23)
- We find several of God's principles at work here:

**I. Wake up! We're in a war. (V.7-8)**

- God's people have been summoned to something bigger than themselves.
- Recognizing we are in a war helps us make better sense of life.
- Knowing we are in a war means that we must see ourselves differently.
- To live in ignorance of this is one of the most dangerous things we can do.

**\*Application: You can't win a battle you ignore.**

**II. Watch out! There are multiple fronts. (V.7)**

- The enemy comes from many directions.
- We too are surrounded by a number of enemies.
  - ⇒ Flesh
  - ⇒ World
  - ⇒ Devil

**\*Application: They all gang up to battle anyone who would intend to live a life centered on God.**

**III. Look out! There are various strategies.**

- Ridicule and contempt. (V.1-3)
- Confusion, chaos, darkness (V.8)
- Discouragement (V.10)
- Intimidation, fear, insecurity (V.11)  
**\*Application: There is a certain weariness in well doing. (Galatians 6:9)**
- Uncertainty, doubt (V.12)
- Evil is *Nothingness*
- This is why we must resist. So, how do we fight?

**IV. Look up! Fight with spiritual weapons.**

- Nehemiah was not about to be intimidated.
- He was filled with a holy discontent, holy prayer, holy nerve, holy conviction, holy imagination, holy indignation, and now, holy tenacity.
- We must take on evil with two powerful weapons:
  1. Authentic intercession (V.9) *Prayer!*
  2. Divine Truth

⇒ Nehemiah fought off evil with these essential truths, that are our truths:

1. Evil has no authority over us (V.14) (Mark 3:15)
2. God is more than Able (V.14)
3. God enters into and fights our battles (V.20)
4. Sin is never less quiet than when it is most quiet. (V.23)

### **Conclusion**

- It may look like Satan has won, but in Christ, we have won the war. (Revelation)