

**January 27, 2008**

**Series: Transforming Our World for God**

**Message: #14 "Facing Neglect Head On"**

**Scripture: Nehemiah 10:32-39**

**Introduction**

- Israel was guilty of inattentiveness.
- We often view this as a book about God building a wall.
- Instead it is about God building a people.
- God never gives up on those He loves. (Rebuilding broken people is what God is all about.)"

**I. If we are to be blessed by God there are at least three areas of our lives that must be given to God.**

1. In the area of *Relationships* - We promise to live a life of separation. (V.30)
2. In the area of *time* - We promise to enter into God's rest. (V.31)
3. In the area of *possessions* - We promise to no longer neglect the needs of the House of God. (V.32-39)
  - We assume a responsibility we have up till now avoided. (V.32a)
  - We promise to give that which will enable corporate worship. (v.32-33)
  - We promise to give the first part. (V.35-37a)
  - We promise to give systematically and proportionately (V.37-39)

**II. All of this tells us two things about what Jesus taught when He walked this earth.**

1. How we view our resources matters to God.
  - Everything belongs to God. (Zachariah 14:20; Psalm 24:1)
  - I am just God's manager.
2. What we do with our resources also matters to God.
  - Israel realized it matters to God what they did with their possessions.
  - Through the resources God gives us we make possible several things.
    1. We make possible people getting right with God.
    2. We make possible our future wealth.
    3. We make possible God's blessings.
    4. We become more intimate with God.
    5. We make possible our spiritual growth.

**Conclusion**

- It makes sense to invest in God's kingdom.
- What keeps us from giving?
  - Possessiveness - unbelief - ignorance of who is owner - insecurity and fear - *the illusion that this is our home.*