

## SATAN MET A BRICK WALL

- Dalton Key -



"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).

Temptations to forsake good works have ever plagued mankind. Satan has always known that the quickest and surest way to bring a good work to a halt is simply by discouraging the workers. Our enemy, as "a roaring lion . . . seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8), delights in shrouding any shining ray of hope behind dark clouds of doubt and defeatism.

A wonderful biblical example of one who overcame Satan's temptations to quit a worthy work can be found in the Old Testament story of Nehemiah. Nehemiah had not been laboring long in rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem before Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem, enemies of God's people, heard of it and began a major campaign to halt the work. At first they ridiculed the project. Tobiah dismissed the wall as being so weak that it would fall under the weight of a fox. (Nehemiah 4:3.) But the work continued.

These enemies then "conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it," but still the work continued with the workmen holding a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. (4:8,17.) Sanballat and Geshem tempted Nehemiah to take a rest from the work and meet with them on the plains of Ono to talk the matter over. But the invitation was refused and the work continued. (6:1-4.) Finally, ugly and untruthful rumors were circulated in a last-ditch effort to discredit the work and the motive behind it. (6:5-9.) But the work continued and the wall was finished in just 52 days. (6:15.)

The keys to Nehemiah's success? Among others, note these: first, "They strengthened their hands for this good work," believing that God would help them. (2:18,20.) And second, "The people had a mind to work." (4:6.) Because the work was perceived as greater than the workers and because it was seen as a work of God and aided by God, Nehemiah's company "had a mind to work." They would thus be neither discouraged nor dissuaded.

Satan met a brick wall when he came up against Nehemiah and his workmen. May the same be true of his efforts against our good works as we labor for the Lord today.

(Bulletin Digest)

## Looking For Tomorrow

Thomas Jefferson said, "I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past." I feel like Jefferson. Whenever the past is more important than the future, at least two problems result — either resting on laurels or dwelling on failures. But when one dreams of the future, past successes just pave the road for accepting greater challenges and past failures just indicate which direction not to go. Both provide direction.

Here is a story about Thomas Edison. During Edison's search to invent the light bulb, a newspaper reporter commented to him that he had failed thousands of times to invent a light bulb. In reply he said, "To the contrary, I have succeeded in finding thousands of ways that will not work. Things are progressing quite well!"

We would do well to learn from Jefferson and Edison the virtue of looking to the future with confidence and direction. Don't miss Paul's words: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize . . ." (Phil. 3:13, 14).

- Dave Stevens [adapted] (Bulletin Digest) -

God can handle tomorrow if you give Him today.

## News & Notes

**THIS MORNING'S SPEAKER:** Aaron Burch. Bro. Rico is in Florida for a lectureship.  
**ELDERS REPORTS:** This evening at 5:30 p.m. our Elders will speak concerning the work of the church here in 2017, and plans for 2018. Plan to be present.

**CONFESSIONS:** Daniel & Cindy Mehlmauer.

**NEW CONVERT CLASS:** Each Sunday a.m. Bible Class in Room 406. This class is for those who were baptized in the last three years.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All the ladies are invited and urged to help in this good work.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:** Canceled this week due to Bro. Rico's absence. Resumes Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Men should attend this good class.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Geri Barnett (member at St. Clair Ave. congregation) will have surgery on Friday.

**TO HAVE SURGERY:** David Stefl is scheduled to have surgery Tuesday, Jan. 23rd at the Cleveland Clinic. He will be there for a few days. Remember him in prayer.

**PANTRY:** Vegetable Beef and Tomato soups.

**99th BIRTHDAY:** Gladys Pryor (former member here) will celebrate her 99th birthday on Feb. 1st. Her address: Consulate Health Care of Orange Park, 1215 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073. She would appreciate cards.

**REQUEST FOR CARDS:** Chris Shallenberger (Skip's brother-in-law). Chris had three discs removed from his neck. His address: P. O. Box 5992, Douglasville, GA 30154.

**SICK & SHUT-IN:** *CARRIAGE INN, WINTERSVILLE:* Mary Jane Bowers. *At Home:* Tim Adkins, Russell Martin, Mary Helen Riley, Linda Wiersbicki, Fred Larrimore, Blondenia Orr, Betty Henthorne, Doris Dunham, Tom Wells (ex-husband of Claudette Miller). *FOX NURSING HOME:* Mary Nelson. *CROSSROADS:* Sarah Miller, Jim Mick. *CALCUTTA HEALTH CARE:* Ella Beagle. *IN FLORIDA:* Ilene Rayl.

## What Christ Is To Me

The Shield from every dart;  
The Balm for every smart;  
The Sharer of each load;  
Companion on the road.  
The Door into the fold;  
The Anchor that will hold;  
The Shepherd of the sheep;  
The Guardian of my sleep.  
The Friend with Whom I talk;  
The Way by which I walk;  
The Light to show the way;  
The Strength for every day.  
The Source of my delight;  
The Song to cheer the night;  
The Thought that fills my mind;  
The Best of all to find—is Jesus.

- Author Unknown -  
via Broadway church of Christ  
Campbellsville, KY (Bulletin Digest)

## TOP 10 PREDICTIONS FOR 2018

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be Bible-based preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control, and "the Word of the Lord endureth forever..." 1 Peter 1:25. (Bulletin Digest)