

**Study Questions for the July 19, 2020 Sermon:
“Starting Off Right”
Nehemiah 2**

1. Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for permission and support to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Pastor Paul pointed out that the King might have been concerned that once Jerusalem was secure, it might engage in insurrection. Why do you believe that the King agreed to Nehemiah's request?
2. In verse 2:2, Nehemiah confesses to being “very much afraid”. What was the cause of Nehemiah's fear?
3. It is clear from Nehemiah's initial response (fasting and praying) to hearing about the walls, and from his testimony in verse 2:18, that he understood the success or failure of the initiative to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem was under the control of a sovereign God. Yet there are multiple references in Chapter 2 to Nehemiah engaging in research and planning. If we believe in God's sovereignty, why do we research and plan when starting a project?
4. In 2:17 & 18, Nehemiah wins, from the residents of Jerusalem, support for rebuilding the city's walls. Can we learn anything from Nehemiah about presenting a problem so that people are moved to action?
5. Nehemiah’s plans to rebuild Jerusalem's walls were opposed by some locals. They responded (verse 19) with ridicule and slander. Read verse 20. What can you learn from Nehemiah about how to respond to enemies or to the Enemy?
6. Pastor Paul said that times of adversity clarify the strengths and weaknesses of people and organizations. He challenged us to view the broken walls of Jerusalem as a metaphor for things (such as relationships) that may be “broken” in our personal lives. Share a time that you mended a broken relationship.