

# CrossWalk **notes**

## Leading God's Way: Strengthened by Opposition

November 10, 2019 / Phil Bischoff

<sup>1</sup> When Sanballat heard that we were rebuilding the wall, **he became angry and was greatly incensed. He ridiculed the Jews,**<sup>2</sup> and in the presence of his associates and the army of Samaria, he said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? Will they restore their wall? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they finish in a day? Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble—burned as they are?" Nehemiah 4:1-2, NIV

God's people have always and will always face opposition and ridicule from \_\_\_\_\_, especially when we \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>4</sup> Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. <sup>6</sup> So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart. Nehemiah 4:4,6, NIV

Nehemiah leaves \_\_\_\_\_ in God's hands and doubles down on the \_\_\_\_\_ while facing opposition.

<sup>7</sup> But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed,

### MEMORY VERSE

they were very angry. <sup>8</sup> They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. <sup>9</sup> But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat. Nehemiah 4:7-9, NIV

Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ when facing opposition.

<sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."<sup>11</sup> Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work." Nehemiah 4:10-11, NIV

<sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, **hope.** <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured out into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5, NIV

Bad \_\_\_\_\_ cause people to lose confidence and get frustrated. A leader must point to what's \_\_\_\_\_—God's love in Jesus. Hope in this \_\_\_\_\_ allows us not only to survive opposition, but be \_\_\_\_\_ by it.

<sup>14</sup> After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." Nehemiah 4:14, NIV

<sup>15</sup> So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup> When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God. Nehemiah 6:15-16, NIV

No opposition can ever \_\_\_\_\_ the work God wants done! The more opposition, the more glory He gets in the \_\_\_\_\_!

### MEMORY VERSE

<sup>28</sup> "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, Nehemiah 4:14b, NIV

**My next step:** My confidence is not in my circumstances, but in the certainty of Jesus' love and victory! I can move forward and view opposition as a time to be strengthened.