

A Motto for Life

Nehemiah 5:14, 15

INTRODUCTION:

1. A keynote for conduct: not fear of the crowd, but fear of the conscience.

DISCUSSION:

I. Variations on the Motto

- A. Nehemiah's: "because of the fear of God"
- B. Paul's: "the love of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:14)
- C. Others: "religious principle" (colder and broader but good)
- D. Maybe also given as: conscience, sense of duty, right
- E. Remember, however, that the conscience may be weak and uneducated (cf. 1 Cor. 8; Rom. 14).

II. Courage of the Motto

- A. To stand out!
- B. Examples:
 1. Moses (Heb. 11:24, 25)
 2. The Hebrew youth (Dan. 3:8-30)
 3. Peter and John (Acts 4:19, 20; 5:29)

III. Applications of the Motto

- A. To himself one must say, "No!" (cf. Matt. 16:24).
- B. To the world one must say, "No!" (cf. 1 John 2:15-17).

IV. Directness of the Motto

- A. Nehemiah's reason for not "pocketing the money" was simple: "because of the fear of God."
- B. The motto is very straightforward and direct.

V. Guidance of the Motto

- A. Doubtful matters are settled.
- B. That which is "on the fringe" is shunned.
- C. Cf. Romans 14:23.

CONCLUSION: