

Aggressive Benevolence

Nehemiah 1:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

1. Nehemiah inquired concerning the Jews who had gone from captivity to Jerusalem.
2. His motivation was a benevolent heart.

DISCUSSION: Aggressive benevolence...

I. Is an active principle.

- A. It seeks to save the lost.
 1. Nehemiah knew something about the state of Jerusalem, but asked for particulars (cf. answer).
 2. Jesus is another example (cf. Matt. 20:28; John 9:35; Luke 19:10).
- B. Its motive is love.
 1. Benevolence without love is cold (cf. 1 Cor. 13:1-3).
 2. Again, Jesus is the example (2 Cor. 8:9).

II. Does not fear possible sacrifices.

- A. It seeks to know the worst.
 1. Nehemiah was not satisfied with superficial knowledge.
 2. Benevolence probes the wound it seeks to heal.
- B. It shrinks from no sacrifice (cf. Luke 5:18, 19).
 1. Nehemiah was aware that he could not help unless he sacrificed.
 2. Wealth, position, even life, would possibly be lost.

III. Is not easily discouraged.

- A. Regarding no case as hopeless
- B. Recognizing the infinite resources of God

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember that divine omnipotence has no fear.
2. Behind the benevolent saint of God there is...
 - a. Divine pity
 - b. Divine power
 - c. Divine pardon