

Forethought

Nehemiah 2:7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Nehemiah made provision for all contingencies and anticipated difficulty that was likely to arise.
2. From his prudent forethought we are able to learn at least two things.

DISCUSSION:

I. Forethought is helpful to success in every enterprise.

- A. God commends examination and preparation.
 1. "...the fool will be servant to the wise of heart" (Prov. 11:29).
 2. "...the prudent gives thought to his steps" (Prov. 14:15).
 3. "Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good..." (Prov. 16:20).
 4. "Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs..." (Matt. 7:6).
 5. "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost..." (Luke 14:28).
 6. Examples:
 - a. Jacob (Gen. 32)
 - b. Joseph (Gen. 41)
 - c. Jethro (Ex. 18)
 - d. David (1 Sam. 17)
 - e. Abigail (1 Sam. 25)
 - f. Paul (Acts 16)
 - g. Town-clerk of Ephesus (Acts 19)
- B. Effort is at the foundation of success.
 1. No sowing without reaping (Gen. 3:19).
 2. Cf. 2 Peter 1:10.
- C. Spiritual work is amenable to natural law.
 1. Natural law is no respecter of persons.
 2. Sloth undermines the success of religious enterprises.
 3. "...for whatever one sows, that will he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

II. Forethought is helpful to faith.

- A. It furnishes a rational basis for expecting success.
- B. It believes mental powers were given to be employed in the service of God.
- C. It takes no step without seeking God's approval.

CONCLUSION:

1. Nehemiah committed himself to God, yet petitioned the king for a convoy.
2. In all our enterprises God is to be trusted as if we had no means, and our means are to be used as if we had no God.