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Fellowship of Companies for Christ
Greater Hartford Chapter
August 5, 2009
Café Lafayette, Vernon CT

- Opening prayer
- Introductions
- Praise reports
- **How to *Build* a Godly Business**

Today's topic: **Are you firmly planted in and supportive of a local church?**

These past seven months, the rebuilding of Jerusalem in Nehemiah has been our core illustration as we seek to deliberately build Godly businesses. If we go back a bit further in Scripture (Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah), we find that the Jews began resettling the area decades before Nehemiah arrived on the scene. First, God raised up leaders to rebuild the temple and to revive the people. Instead of taking just 52 days, the rebuilding of the temple took 20 years, from 536 to 516 BC. Then, there was a gap of 70 years until 446 BC when Nehemiah leads the rebuilding of the city. During this gap, the people had to return to God so they were ready and willing to rebuild the city. From start to finish, 90 years.

What role did leadership play?

- Zerubbabel is the governor of the colony of Jews who arrives to rebuild the temple; he lays the foundation
- Haggai is a prophet who stirs up the people to focus on the temple, not on themselves
- Zechariah is a prophet who also helps to stir the people to focus on the temple
- Ezra is a priest who helps to purify the Jews before the rebuilding of Jerusalem
- Nehemiah is the king's cupbearer who leads the rebuilding effort in Jerusalem

What role did "the people" play?

The Jews are involved in their own lives, not particularly enthused and motivated, with no vision and little courage to overcome the challenges and make the commitment to rebuild the temple. They are apathetic and need leaders!

What role did "politics" (government) play?

Several kings play crucial roles, including Cyrus, Darius I, Xerxes, and Artaxerxes.

What role did opposition play?

Opposition to the rebuilding of the temple hindered and paralyzed the work for many years.

What are some principles that we can discuss and apply today?

No Christian business owner is an island unto him or herself. To build strong Christian businesses, we need strong Christian churches. We must be willing to apply our God-given time, talent, tongue and treasure for the good of our churches. We must be willing to live the Christian life, as examples and exhorters to others. We need politicians who favor our cause. We must overcome opposition. This is the cultural infrastructure. Sometimes progress will be remarkably quick, sometimes painfully slow. But continue we must! We're to be faithful. We can't control the timing.

Leaders come in many forms, with different styles, spheres of influence, and roles to play. As Christian business owners, we must engage with other Godly or God-fearing leaders for the overall sake of the His eternal Kingdom.

- Next meeting on August 19 here, 7:30 am (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)
- Closing prayer