

# Sermon Series Notes

## REDEMPTION

A STUDY IN EZRA



## "Getting Back To Work" (Ezra 5-6)

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### I. THE TEXT

4:23 Sometimes we are forced to stop the work God has called us to. But stopping does not mean that we just sit back and become complacent. When the door opens for us to begin again, we get back at it. These guys didn't pick back up again for 15 plus years

5:1-2 How were these prophets helping in the work. Perhaps they actually did some construction work, but more than likely they spoke the Word faithfully, and that Word spurred everyone on in the work.

\* What we need are some prophetic voices that will be used of the Lord to get us back to work

\* Perhaps the greatest way I can serve you and be a part of the work that God is doing here at CCSP is to speak the Word faithfully, and God's Word will spur us on toward love and good deeds

### II. LESSONS

#### A. What Is The Work God Has For You To Accomplish?

\* Eph.2: 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

\* There is a corporate work, and there is a personal work.

\* All of us are called to give (Matt.25). God told me this morning at 8:25 a.m. that I was to talk about our responsibility and privilege in giving \$...someone here needs to hear this

\* Prov.3: 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.

\* II Cor.8: 7 But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us --see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

- \* Don't let tough times keep you from giving
  - Widow of Zarephath, I Kings 17; widow at the temple, Luke 21.

\* Luke 16: 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?

## B. Don't Let Anything Keep You From Completing The Work

\* Col.4: 17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."

- \* Have you ever quit something and later regretted it?

\* Little League I played for Moose (Moose Lodge). We were the worst team in the league. While playing ball, I also was invited to play in my first rock n roll band. Tired of losing in baseball and looking for glory, that next season I stayed with the band but didn't stay with the baseball team. And guess what happened? Moose won the league championship!! All the team got to ride in a parade right through the middle of downtown Hartsville!!!

- \* High school football

- \* Track (Sick first two weeks every season; MVP first year at Liberty)

\* College Quit, then went back, worked three part time jobs, saved money under my mattress

## C. Reasons Why We Might Quit

### 1. Opposition

- \* They were forced to stop the work (Ezra 4:23-24).

\* I Thess.2: 18 For we wanted to come to you--certainly I, Paul, did, again and again--but Satan stopped us.

- \* See Acts 5:17-29

\* Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5-7a; 11:18-19, 21; 12:5-6; 20:7-8; 28:10; 37:12-17; 38:4-6).

- \* II Timothy 1:5-8

### 2. Weariness

\* Gal.6: 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

\* Note: They never would have found favor with the king of Assyria had they not started the work again.

\* Acts 13: 13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

\* Elijah (I Kings 19)

\* Moses (Numbers 11:15)

\* He had less than three years of formal education, failed in business in '31. He was defeated for State Legislature in '32, failed again in business in '34. Finally elected to State Legislature in '35, ran for Speaker and lost by a landslide, He was defeated again for Elector in '40, and for Congress in '43. Elected in '46, he lasted only a two year term, being defeated in a re-election attempt in '48. Failing in business once again, he ran for Senate, but was defeated in '55. Ran for President in '56 and was crushed. Defeated for Senate again in '58. Then in '60 (1860), Abraham Lincoln won going on to become one of the greatest political leaders in American history.

\* The many times I have wanted to quit this ministry  
3. A love for this present world

\* II Timothy 4: 10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

\* Was it a woman, a job opportunity, the party atmosphere?

#### D. Reasons Why We Might Not Start Again

##### 1. Lost focus

\* See Haggai 1:1-12; These guys had concluded that the time was not right to complete the work, then after stopping, they got caught up in their own homes and families and lost their focus - for over fifteen years!

\* Luke 8: 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

##### 2. Former failure

\* Moses his five excuses

#### CONCLUSION

\* What work has God prepared for you to do?  
- Corporately?  
- Personally? (Rom. 12 gifts)

\* Facing opposition? Weary? Been forced to stop the work you were doing for the Lord? Become comfortable in the "down time" and lost your focus? Isn't it time to get back to work?