

You Can't Please Everyone
Nehemiah 2:10

I. You can't please everyone.

A. Opposition

1. Nehemiah's journey
 - a. Robert Savage - "You can measure a man by the opposition it takes to discourage him."
 - b. Nehemiah
 - (1) Has received a spiritual burden from the Lord for God's glory
 - (2) Has wept and prayed and waited and planned
 - (3) Has received favor with the king at the hands of God
 - (4) Has traveled 1500 miles on horseback from Susa to Jerusalem
 - (5) Has seen God to marvelous things and has known God's approval all the way . . . until now
2. **Opposition arises whenever God's people put God's glory first in their lives.**
 - a. David experienced opposition to his commitment to God's glory:
 - (1) **Psalm 2:1-6 (ESV)** ¹ *Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?* ² *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,* ³ *"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."* ⁴ *He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.* ⁵ *Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,* ⁶ *"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."*
 - b. Jesus experienced opposition to his commitment to God's glory
 - (1) **Matthew 22:15-18 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words.* ¹⁶ *And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances."* ¹⁷ *Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"* ¹⁸ *But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites?"*
 - c. The apostles experienced opposition to their commitment to God's glory
 - (1) **Acts 4:1-3 (ESV)** ¹ *And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,* ² *greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.* ³ *And they arrested them*

and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

- d. Paul experienced opposition to his commitment to God's glory
 - (1) **Acts 19:25-28 (ESV)** ²⁵ *These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. ²⁶ And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. ²⁷ And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship." ²⁸ When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"*
- e. Hebrews 11 records an entire litany of those who faced opposition in the world as a result of their commitment to the spread of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord in the world.

B. Framing opposition correctly

- 1. **Experiencing opposition does not necessarily mean you're out of God's will. It can be an indication you are solidly established in God's will.**
- 2. Nehemiah
 - a. God is pleased to give Nehemiah a burden for his glory
 - b. God is pleased to give Nehemiah
 - (1) favor with the king,
 - (2) approval for the journey,
 - (3) provisions for the work
 - (4) safe passage to the destination
 - c. It is not God who is displeased with the journey of faith and faithfulness Nehemiah is on, but two petty bureaucrats selfishly concerned for their own social advantage.

II. You can't please everyone, but you can please God.

A. Put your faith in Jesus and set out to live by faith.

- 1. **John 11:25-26 (ESV)** ²⁵ *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*
- 2. A life commitment to seeing the glory of God spread throughout the whole earth begins by entrusting our lives, and deaths, and eternity to Jesus

B. Take up your cross and follow Jesus

- 1. **Matthew 16:24-25 (ESV)** ²⁴ *Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

2. Jesus identifies the life of faith and commitment to the glory of God as a life of opposition.
 - a. “In this world you will have trouble; fear not, I have overcome the world.”
 - b. Opposition sources
 - (1) The sinful heart
 - (a) **Romans 7:21-23 (ESV)** ²¹ *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.* ²² *For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,* ²³ *but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.*
 - (2) Sinful people
 - (3) Sinful enemy
 - (a) **Ephesians 6:12 (ESV)** ¹² *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

C. Expect opposition, but also expect God’s glory to outshine the opposition

1. **Romans 8:18 (ESV)** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.*
2. You who put your faith in Jesus, and live by faith in the world, and suffer opposition at the hands of your own heart, or the world, or the evil one, you who commit yourselves to the glory of God are destined for an incomparable, indescribable glory without blemish and without end.