

SERMON SERIES: **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **A City With Gates**

MESSAGE PREFACE: In ancient times, walls were built for _____; while gates were built for _____.
The church needs both walls of _____ from the ways of the world (2 Cor 6:14-18; Psalm 1) and gates of _____ for the people of the world! (1 Tim 2:4; Rev 22:17)

1. In ancient Jerusalem, under Nehemiah (440-420 BC):
 - a. *A few thousand Jews rebuilt the walls and gates of a city _____ (Neh 1:1-3)*
 - b. *There were _____ gates installed, with various designations and purposes.*
 - c. *The walls themselves were _____ high, _____ thick and _____ around!*
 - d. *In spite of many the obstacles and challenges, they finished the project in _____ days! (Neh 6:15)*
2. In Heb 12:22-23, the N.T. church is called "*The heavenly Jerusalem,*" and it is a _____ community!
 - a. *We know that Jesus is the One _____, the One _____ to the Heavenly Father! (John 10:7-10; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph 2:11-19; Heb 10:19-25)*
 - b. *And, we know that the entry gate is _____ and the way is _____. (Mat 7:13-14; 19:16-30)*
 - c. *And, we know that the one _____ is our one _____ into Christ and into His church. (Eph 4:4-5; John 3:3-5; Rom 6:3-6; 1 Cor 12:13; Acts 2:40-42)*

3. Now let's consider the "gates" of WOCC:
Do we have _____ "gates" or entry points?
Are we an _____ accessible church?

a. *Our "gates" would include our _____, classes, activities, events, _____ ... and each _____!*

[NOTE: On Saturday, Oct 3, our Equipped For Christ workshop will give you the opportunity to learn ways we can strengthen, repair or add to the "gates" of WOCC!]

b. *The truth is, we can either _____ or _____ people's entry into Christ? (Mat 5:14-16; 23:4,13; Luke 11:52; Col 4:2-6)*

MESSAGE APPEAL: Rev 22:14,17; John 10:7-10; 14:2-6
If you want to enter Heaven's gate on "That" Day, make sure you have entered the Kingdom _____ Christ, and are _____ in Christ and for Christ today!