

SERMON SERIES: **HOME IMPROVEMENT**

TODAY'S MESSAGE: **A City With Gates 2**

TEXTS: **John 10:7-9; Isaiah 2:2-3; Hebrews 13:10-16**

MESSAGE REVIEW of Last Sunday:

1. In ancient Jerusalem, under Nehemiah (440-420 BC), a few thousand Jews rebuilt the walls and gates of a city in ruins, with 9 gates and walls 39 feet high, 8 feet thick and 2.5 miles around, in 52 days! (Neh 1:1-6:15)
 2. In Heb 12:22-23, the N.T. church is called *“The heavenly Jerusalem,”* and it is a *“gated”* community!
 - a. *We know that Jesus is the One Gate, the One Way to the Heavenly Father! (John 10:7-10; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)*
 - b. *And, we know that the entry gate is narrow and the way is hard. (Mat 7:13-14; 19:16-30)*
 - c. *And, we know that the one baptism is our one gateway 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 enough “gates” or entry points?
Are we an easily accessible church? An inviting church?
 - a. *Our “gates” would include our assemblies, classes, activities, events, ministries ... and each member!*
 - b. *And, we can either facilitate or hinder people's entry into Christ? (Mat 5:14-16; 23:4,13; Luke 11:52; Col 4:2-6)*
-

MESSAGE PREFACE for Today: *So, at WOCC we have some “gates” (points of entry), and we need to set up more “gates.” But do we assume that “_____ we build it, _____ will come?”*

4. So, yes, a gate is an entrance (as we've discussed), but it is also an _____. Church, we are called to be ...
 - a. An _____ and _____ Church! (John 10:7-9; Mat 4:18-22)
 - “_____” led in, _____ led out
 - “A _____” in the _____ and out in the _____!
 - b. A _____ and _____ Church! (Isaiah 2:2-3)
 - First, _____. Then, _____ and say “_____!” (Rev 22:17)
 - _____ to Jesus, then _____ for Jesus! (Mat 11:28-29; 28:19-20)
5. Following Jesus “outside”—Hebrews 13:10-16
 - a. Jesus suffered “outside the _____”
 - b. We are called to go to Him “outside the _____” (John 12:26; Luke 9:23)
 - To S _____ (Tell people about Him! 1 Pet 2:9)
 - To S _____ (Do good, set a good example)
 - To S _____ (Serve and give to the needy)
 - To S _____ (See Rom 12:1)

MESSAGE TAKE-AWAY: *Yes, we are a church with walls of separation. And we are a church with gates of access. But we must also be an _____ church!*