# **Vision - New Beginnings - Pt 15 Change Your World in 52 days**

Pastor Carl Van Vliet

New Beginnings / Leadership; Care; Listen; Hear; Fasting; Prayer / Nehemiah; Nehemiah 3; Nehemiah 4; Ne 6:15–7:73

[**Nehemiah 6:15**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne6.15) “15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days.”

[Acts 17:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ac17.6) “... “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”

1. World Changers Care - [Nehemiah 1:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.2)

2. World Changers Listen - [Nehemiah 1:3-4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.3-4)

3. World Changers Hurt - [Nehemiah 1:4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.4)

4. World Changers Intercede - [Nehemiah 1:4-5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.4-5)

5. World Changers Wait on the Lord to reveal how we should respond - [Nehemiah 1:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.1) & [Nehemiah 2:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.1)

6. World Changers are Gospel-Centric - [Nehemiah 1:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne1.10).

7. World Changers are Led by the Spirit [Nehemiah 2:4-5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.4-5).

8. World Changers Embrace Vision [Nehemiah 2:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.18).

9. World Changers Function as a Body [Nehemiah 3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne3) [1 Corinthians 12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co12) [Romans 12](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro12) [Ephesians 4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eph4)

Opposition: Internal and External - From Among us and From around us

• op·po·si·tionresistance or dissent, expressed in action or argument.

July 2022 article in the MBC Pathways magazine titled “Are Southern Baptists Ready for a World That Despises Christians?”

• **The Positive world (Pre-1994)**

• **The Neutral world (1994-2014)**

• **The Negative world (2014-Present)**

• **I believe we have actually, Probably around Covid - around 2020 entered “The Hostile world”**

**Christians today are solely unprepared for living in a world that opposes them, opposes their faith and the expression of their faith through the gospel.**

God is working out his eternal purpose, not only in spite of human and satanic opposition, but by means of them. **A.W. Pink**

He will attempt that very thing to us today. To stop us from accomplishing the Vision He has for our church. God has eternal purposes we are a part of, not just temporal as we see in our finite lifetimes and day to day living - Eternal purposes!

It says **“they were despised”** because of what they believed God wanted them to do.

John said in [1 John 3:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Jn3.13) “Don’t be surprised if they hate you” [John 15:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn15.18) “18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”

Jesus said in His sermon on the mount (Shameless plug - Sermon on the mount series coming soon) [Luke 6:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Lk6.22) “22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man’s sake.”

[Matthew 10:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.22) “22 And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

If God were the sole object of our desire, we should not be disturbed so easily by opposition to our opinions. **Thomas à Kempis**

**Sometimes opposition comes from within:**

1. [Nehemiah 3:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne3.5) “5 Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord.”

You might find some who are not committed, they don’t want to do the work needed in the church, and you have one of two responses:

i. Let their influence stop you from continuing by faith and work

ii. Continue on in the work God has called them to do : Notice the before and after. [Nehemiah 3:5a](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne3.5a) “5 Next to them the Tekoites made repairs;...” [Nehemiah 3:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne3.6) “... Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars.”

1. The did not let the behavior of those Tekoite nobles to influence their hearts and minds into NOT being a part of what God was doing!

2. Don’t let the people around you who are negative or non committal, people who are not engaged with the work of God keep YOU for stepping up in your “Next To Them” place in God’s vision and work of His church!

[Nehemiah 4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4) - In the process of carrying out the vision - the work - 2 distinct oppositions:

1. They Mocked and Ridiculed them - [Nehemiah 4:1-3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.1-3) “1 But it so happened, when Sanballat **heard that we were rebuilding the wall**, that he was **furious and very indignant, and mocked the Jews.** 2 And he spoke before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they fortify themselves? Will they offer sacrifices? Will they complete it in a day? Will they revive the stones from the heaps of rubbish—stones that are burned?” 3 **Now Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Whatever they build, if even a fox goes up on it, he will break down their stone wall.””**

a. Sanballat “Heard that they were rebuilding the wall” In simple terms he heard that he had failed to discourage them earlier when Nehemiah cast vision for the rebuilding project [Nehemiah 2:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.19). so he and his friends return to exert more effort into opposing them.

2. They Conspired to “Come and Attack” and “Create Confusion” - [Nehemiah 4:7-8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.7-8) “7 Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the **gaps were beginning to be closed**, that they **became very angry**, 8 and all of them **conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion.”**

a. This cause discouragement in the people - [Nehemiah 4:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.10) “10 Then Judah said, **“The strength of the laborers is failing,** and there is so much rubbish **that we are not able to build the wall.””**

b. **This Caused Fear -** [**Nehemiah 4:12**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.12) “12 So it was, when the Jews who dwelt near them came, that they told us ten times, “From whatever place you turn, they will be upon us.””

These oppositions came in 3 different stages:

1. When the Vision was cast and caught [Nehemiah 2:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.19)

2. When the building began [Nehemiah 4:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.1)

3. When the walls were halfway built [Nehemiah 4:6-7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.6-7)

Believer hear me today: You WILL face opposition to living a life of faith, You WILL face opposition in catching a Vision for Kingdom Living, You WILL even face opposition from both within, people you wouldn't expect it from, and externally from the world.

What is the solution, How do we handle opposition?

1. Don’t be surprised by it:

a. Jesus said you would be hated [Matthew 10:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt10.22) and [John 15:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn15.18).

b. James said it would be coming [James 1:2-3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jas1.2-3) “2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

c. John said it would come [1 John 3:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Jn3.13) “13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.”

2. Respond in prayer AND Action

a. [Nehemiah 4:4-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.4-6) “4 **Hear, O our God, for we are despised...** ...6 So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.”

3. Remember the process

a. Catch the Vision [Nehemiah 2:18](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.18) “18 ...So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work.”

b. Believe in Hope that God will fulfill the Vision [Nehemiah 2:20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.20) “20 ...“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us...”

c. Act in Faith that God will fulfill the vision [Nehemiah 2:20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne2.20) “20... therefore we His servants will arise and build...”

4. Be watchful and Prepared to Fight

a. Watchful - watch·ful - watching or observing someone or something closely; alert and vigilant.

i. [Nehemiah 4:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.9) “9 Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and **because of them we set a watch against them day and night.”**

ii. [1 Peter 5:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Pe5.8) “8 Be sober, **be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

iii. [1 Corinthians 16:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co16.13) “13 **Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong**.”

iv. The watchful person is *prepared*. **William Hendriksen; Simon J. Kistemaker**

b. Prepared to Fight

i. [Nehemiah 4:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne4.13) “13 Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, **with their swords, their spears, and their bows.”**

ii. Our Battle is a Spiritual one:

1. [**Ephesians 6:12**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eph6.12) “12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

2. [2 Corinthians 10:3-5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Co10.3-5) “3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”

5. **Have Confidence - In Christ the Victory is already won and the enemy is defeated**

a. [**Nehemiah 6:15-16**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ne6.15-16) “15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. 16 And it happened, **when all our enemies heard of it**, and all the nations around us saw these things, **that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God.”**

b. [John 16:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn16.33) “33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**””

c. [1 Corinthians 15:57](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co15.57) “57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Opportunity and opposition usually go together; and the greater the opportunity, the greater the opposition. “For a great and effective door has opened to me,” wrote Paul, “and there are many adversaries” (**[**1 Cor. 16:9**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Co16.9)**).**

**Warren W. Wiersbe**

But there is no advance for the gospel without opposition.

**N. T. Wright**

**Our Wall to build is not a do but a become - Our vision has been expressed as our prayer focus for 2023:**

• **That we would be Gospel-centric people:** [**Matthew 28:18-20**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt28.18-20)

• **That we would be a Worshiping people:** [**John 4:23-24**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn4.23-24)

• **That we would be a praying people:** [**1 Timothy 2:8**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Ti2.8)

• **That we would be a Serving people:** [**Galatians 5:13**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ga5.13)

• **That we would be a Generous people:** [**1 John 3:17**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Jn3.17)

**Nehemiah 4**

