

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Nehemiah 4:6 *“So we rebuilt the wall till all of it reached half its height, for the people worked with all their heart.”*

Matthew 24:12, 13 *“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

Mark 13:13 *“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

Thomas H Palmer (1782-1861) *“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again”*

The rebuilding of Jerusalem’s temple and walls stretch over several books of the Old Testament. The Babylonians had captured and destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC. Nehemiah was the third exile to be allowed to return and supervise the rebuilding. At the time the city was being threatened by his people’s enemies so he had to arrange for his workers to be armed as they toiled. He persevered until the work was complete.

Matthew and Mark recount the same message in regard to faith. The disciples were warned to expect ridicule, persecution and even death whilst persevering with the spreading of their faith. Whilst, here we may only suffer ridicule there are still many places in the world where persecution and death of those who believe still occurs.

There will always be setbacks in the spread of the Christian faith but like Thomas H Palmer, a teacher in America, we should persevere and keep trying.