

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Cooperation

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid, great deeds are done, and great discoveries made." – Homer

"Many hands make light work." – William Patten, *Expedition Into Scotland (1547)*

"What is impossible for one, many may yet accomplish." – Paula Underwood, "Who speaks For Wolf: A Native American Learning Story"

"The most powerful force ever known on this planet is human cooperation – a force for construction and destruction." – Janathan Haidt

"Competition has been shown to be useful up to a certain point and no further, but cooperation, which is the things we must strive for today, begins where competition leaves off." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

One of the things that man struggles to learn is that great things can be done when we work together. There have been countless examples through history, and yet man still thinks he can accomplish much more independently.

In the days of Nehemiah, we learn that the walls of Jerusalem had been broken down (Neh. 1:3). In returning to the homeland, despite opposition, we read the beautiful words: "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" (Neh. 4:6). The great thought in this was that they worked together to accomplish this goal.

Perhaps the greatest illustration to help us understand the great things that can be done when we work together is Paul speaking of the church in terms of a human body. "But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary" (1 Cor. 12:20-22). "...the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:25-26).

What seems so regrettable is that brethren today struggle to get along with one another. Perhaps we view things more from the standpoint of competition rather than cooperation. Pride has been a handy tool of the devil. Satan is always looking for a means to drive a wedge between us. He did it to our brethren in the days of the Civil War. And if we are not careful, he will find ways to do the very same thing to us today. Remember, Heaven is a common goal and we need to work together to make that a reality.