

Haggai – Consider Your Ways!

April 24, 2016
Haggai 1:1-15

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)
Pastor Mark W. Turner

Haggai Background:

- Opens with 520 B.C.
- One of 12 minor prophets, One of last 3 to speak for God in OT
- Written 16 years after the return of God's people from exile in 536 B.C. due to Cyrus Edict. Jer 29:10; Ezra 1:2-4
- The remnant who returned started rebuilding Ezra 2&3
- Opposition arose Ezra 4:1-24 until work stopped
- God sends Haggai with the word of the Lord to His people after 16 years of frustration.

God created us for His glory and blesses us when we Glorify Him

1:1-15

WSC Q#1 – Man's chief end is to glorify God & enjoy Him forever.

1. We are all prone to put our prosperity above God's House

- we are fallen sinners – we look out for self
- things (created) can't provide satisfaction

A. Even committed believers put their prosperity above God's House

- remnant who returned were committed, but got distracted
- Have you gotten distracted?

B. Those who put their prosperity above God's House have many "good" reasons (excuses) for their lifestyles

- nothing new under sun Ecc 1:9
- difficulties, family needs, 1 Tim 5:8
- Does job or family matters overshadow your priorities?

C. Those who put their prosperity above God's House are blind to God's sovereign hand.

- People encountered many troubles 1:6 crop failure, not enough, inflation
- God withheld Hag 1:9-11 because of wrong priorities

D. Those who put their prosperity above God's House will never get what they are after.

- Some had material success 1:4, but they weren't satisfied 1:6
- You can't cheat God – you won't be satisfied.

2. We must be diligent to put God's house above our prosperity

- God's House = OT Temple= place of worship, pointed to coming of Messiah
- What is God's House today? His people: individually [1 Cor 3:16, 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16] & corporately [Eph 2:21; 1 Pet 2:5]
- To make God's House a priority today means that you seek to make yourself a fit dwelling for the Holy Spirit and you devote

yourself to building up others in the Body of Christ so that together as His Church we are a fit dwelling for God.

A. To put God's house first requires deliberate and continual effort

- Leaders & People obeyed Hag 1:12-15
- What is God telling you today from His Word?
- What would that look like in your personal spiritual life?
- What would that look like in your corporate spiritual life?

B. To put God's House first requires constant self-evaluation in the fear of God

- "Consider your ways" twice 1:5,7
- How do you spend your time?
- How do you spend your money as God's steward?
- What are your life goals?
- What do you think about most?
 - Who are your heroes or models?
 - Who are your friends?

3. When we put God's house above our prosperity:

A. God is pleased & glorified

- Hag 1:8; Isa 43:7; 1 Cor 6:19-20

B. God's work gets done

- Hag 1:14; Gal 5:25 - keep in step with God's Spirit!

C. God grants us His blessings

- Hag 1:14. No greater blessing! Rom 8:31

Discuss & Apply:

- How does your commitment to Christ compare to when you first trusted Christ? Have the demands of life distracted you?
- What good excuses do you use to ignore God's house? Job, family, age...
- If you feel like life is spinning your wheels... is it possible God blew it away (9) because of your wrong priorities?
- Describe what it looks like to build God's House individually (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16) and corporately (Eph 2:21; 1 Pet 2:5).
- What does it look like for us to obey as they did in verse 12 today?
- Questions to Live a Cross-examined life:
 - How do you spend your time?
 - How are you spending your money as God's steward?
 - What are your life goals? Would God approve?
 - What do you think about most?
 - Who are your heroes or models in life? Would God approve? Why?
 - Who are your friends?