

Message Meditation

March 8, 2015

Text: Haggai

Message Meditation:

1. God, through Haggai, calls His people to return to their priority. They experienced a multi-year drift away from Him and His work. The people hear the message, fear the Lord, and obey God. God encourages them in their work, blesses the work of their hands, and promises a greater future.

2. God's four messages through Haggai over four months:
 - a. Message #1: The people say it is not time to return to rebuilding the temple. They don't have the time or money for such a project. Yet God indicates that they have enough time and money for their own interests, but they are never satisfied. God calls them to return to the priority of rebuilding the temple and building their lives on Him. He satisfies.
 - b. Message #2: The current temple construction doesn't compare with the glory of the former temple. Yet, God is faithful to His people, faithful to His promises, and He promises a future glory that will exceed the former glory. The people are encouraged not to fear, to be strong and to continue their faithful work. God will dump the wealth of the world into their laps.
 - c. Message #3: Holy things don't make unholy things clean by contact. Holy things become defiled by contact with that which is unholy. An unholy people are doing a holy work – rebuilding God's temple. Yet, God is able to bless the work of their hands and sanctify what they do. The blessing is from the Lord, not achieved by their efforts or offerings.
 - d. Message #4: Governor Zerubbabel is chosen by God as a "signet ring." Zerubbabel is in the line of the Promised Deliverer (like Abraham, Israel, & David). (See Matt. 1; Lineage of Jesus.)

3. The work that God is doing today is building His church. His church is made up of Spirit-reborn disciples of Jesus. The work of God's people today, co-laboring with Him, is the work of missions and edification; evangelism and administering God's grace in its various forms; reaching the lost and building up the faith of those who believe; being ambassadors and serving as an outpost of His Kingdom.

Message Application:

1. Is God, and His work of building His church, a practical priority in your life? Move beyond examining your heart & how you feel –examine your time schedule and account ledgers to see what is actual. What is your priority?

2. What are the returns on a God-centered life? What are the returns on a self-centered life? What is your investment strategy? Are you satisfied with your present returns?