

## Something to Consider

***Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of host; Consider your ways.***

***Haggai 1:4,5***

Haggai prophesied when a remnant returned to the Promised Land after seventy years of captivity in Babylon. One would think that after their time of harsh existence in exile, God's people would repair the waywardness of their lives and faith. When they returned, they continued to manifest the same problem that caused their exile. Israel's obedience and their relationship with God became secondary to their personal interests. The prophet rebukes them while bringing to light the misguided carnality of their efforts. Because of not making God and worshiping Him in His temple a priority, the prophet highlights the futility of their labors. ***Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes (Haggai 1;6).*** Maximizing all their time and energy into providing food, clothes, and money could never produce a feeling of satisfaction.

The prophet's warning concerning the building of the temple applies to our spiritual lives today. As believers, our body becomes the temple of the Spirit of the living God. The Lord wants to take the earthen vessel of our body and make it a *vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work*. By His grace, He that began a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. We are to prioritize our lives with the things that will honor and glorify the Lord first. Jesus told His followers to seek first the Kingdom of God and all the other necessary things in life will be added to us. Was not the young lad's fish and bread multiplied after he first offered it to the Lord for His use? We will feel a greater sense of purpose, and life becomes more fulfilling when we willingly put effort into the things that have eternal value. Certainly, we should put care and concern into the activities of this life, but not at the expense of sacrificing our spiritual well-being. Earning an income to provide housing, and to put clothes on our backs and food on our tables is not our primary purpose in life. They are secondary to worshipping and glorifying God with our temple.

Haggai told the people to ***“Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD”***. Let us consider our ways, and may God's Spirit energize us today to build our temple so that we glorify Him.

~ J. Ekis

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