



Sermon Notes from 15 September

All for His Glory (*Haggai 2:1-9*)

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As God called His people to make Him their top priority and step out by faith, a problem occurred: some people were struggling with discouragement. In response, God spoke to them through Haggai, offering encouragement that lifted up their hearts to continue their work for Him.

3 encouragements from the Lord to His people

1) What we are building is more than what we see

v1 - Based on the Jewish calendar, it was a time of feasting and celebration. Not all of them were in the mood: there were some among those rebuilding the temple who had seen the former glory of King Solomon's temple, and knew whatever they were rebuilding then could not compare with it (vv2-3). They compared the grand temple of old to what they could practically accomplish with the resources they had at that time and felt discouraged. One of our greatest problems is that we look through our own eyes at physical reality rather than through the eyes of faith in our hearts at spiritual reality. At this point of redemptive history, God was already preparing His people spiritually for the true glory of the temple.

Despite the temple's physical refurbishment years later by King Herod, because of his depraved heart, God did not delight in it. It is a grave danger for God's people to just focus on what we see with our physical eyes but not on what God is stirring in our hearts. What we are building is always more than what we see with our eyes. In our spiritual journey, we must walk by faith and not by sight!

2) God promises to be with us

vv4-5 - God encourages His people to be strong in the light of His presence with them. Implicitly, King David is brought to mind; this message is similar to the one he gave to Solomon regarding the building of the first temple (1 Ch 28:20). The same God that helped Solomon build the first temple was there with the Jews building the second temple. God promises to be with His people! He is reminding them that He is their true security, not money (Heb 13:5). You cannot serve both God and money; you can only have one master in your life (Mt 6:24). Do not place your security in money. Place your security in God, who wants to deliver you from the tyranny of money, that you may live joyfully with blessed contentment! Trust in God's promise to be our true Master (Pr 22:2) because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross that gave us true eternal security.

3) The future glory of God's house will be greater than the former

v9 - God assures the Jews that He has a greater glory in store for them. They were living stones building up His spiritual house (1 Pe 2:5); God promises to manifest to the nations (vv6-7) so that the treasures of all nations (His people) can come in and be a part of His glory. In the eyes of God, we His people are His real treasure, His secret jewel. The greater glory to be revealed is the ultimate peace (v9) coming to us when Christ, the greatest treasure of all nations, comes again and brings His people home to the heavenly city. It is in that city that the temple would be the most gloriously radiant (Re 21:22-23)!

Give and live your life unto God, not through yourself, but through Christ who lives in you (Ga 2:20)!