



## Sermon Notes from 8 December

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### **Specialy Blessed** (*Haggai 2:10-19*)

by Pastor GL Wong

The book of Haggai consists of 4 different messages. We read from the third message (Hag. 2:10-19) of God's promise to bless His people despite their sinful disobedience and defilement. He promises to bring His people from defilement to holiness so that they may live an obedient life unto God, that would bring about His blessings unto them.

3 Essential Truths for the experience of the fullness of God's blessings:

#### **1) The right view of spiritual reality**

v12-13 – Haggai tested the priests on their concept of spiritual reality. He tells them through an analogy that unlike defilement, holiness cannot be communicated by touch. When an unclean person touches something clean, it becomes unclean. Holiness does not spread this way (v14).

Our spiritual reality, just like God's people in 520 B.C., is that by nature, we are defiled. The right view of spiritual reality means the humble admission that every human being is by nature, an unclean sinner, desperately in need of God's cleansing. We are not able to save ourselves. We need God to heal and restore us. Only He can bring us from defilement to holiness!

#### **2) The right posture of heart**

The right posture of heart to have is one of repentance in response to God's word. Haggai reminds God's people of the importance of this internal heart change. God is not looking for external formalities or mere religiosities, but a sincere heart of repentance that would turn from evil to Him. God's people experienced

a lack of flourishing because of their self-absorption; being content with their religiosity and focusing on building their own kingdom rather than the kingdom of God (v17).

God, instead of justly forsaking His people for their unrepentance and defilement, graciously calls and leads them towards repentance by His given word through Haggai. Only God's living and active word can lead us to repentance. A blessed life is not set on disobedience but repentance. God calls and desires for us to set our hearts on His word so that we may flourish!

#### **3) The right trust in God**

v18 – God teaches His people that in order to receive the fullness of His blessings, faith is needed. It requires their right trust in Him. He calls for His people to place their trust not in what they see with their eyes, but in His word and promise of blessings (v19). This very same promise applies to us today because of the perfect sacrifice Jesus Christ made on the cross. His sacrifice formed the foundation of our Christian faith.

Heb. 9:13-14 – The perfect sacrifice Jesus Christ made, being far superior to that of animals, took the problem of defilement away. Jesus' perfect sacrifice is essential to the blessed life God calls us to. Christ is the foundation of faith for the fullness of God's blessings for all who believe in Him. It is on this very foundation that we can fear no lack (1 Cor. 3:9,11)! His blessings will flow as we walk in obedience by faith in Him!