

A. Neglecting Worship of the Lord Is Serious (1:1-11)

- a. What do you think about worship of God on the Lord’s Day?
- b. The importance and pre-eminence of worship; God takes it very seriously (Ex 25:8; 29:44-46).
- c. Haggai warns of the dangers of neglecting worship (1:2-4), in the tradition of the OT warnings about neglecting worship (Isaiah 29:13-14)
- d. The context of Haggai’s day (1:1-7)
 - i. The temple hasn’t been rebuilt.
 - ii. Foreigners married to Jews (Ezra 10:2)
 - iii. The people’s desire to build houses and acquire wealth ahead of rebuilding the temple, resulting in what one commentator calls “*a sort of truce between conscience and covetousness.*”
- e. In the context, the consequences are agricultural as God withholds his blessing when his people don’t worship him.
 - i. Unsatisfactory crop yield (1:6, 10)
 - ii. Sparse rainfall (1:11)
 - iii. Possible Inflation (1:6)
- f. The context of our day
 - i. Worship guided by the Holy Spirit (post-Pentecost, Acts 5:32)
 - ii. A struggle with that “truce between conscience and covetousness”
 1. A desire to put worship first as long as it doesn’t cost us much
 2. The strong pull of the world that distracts us and keeps us from fuller worship
 - iii. A reluctance to connect blessing with obedience as vividly as Haggai does (1:10-11):
 1. Influence of science and anti-supernaturalism
 2. Emphasis on secondary causes
 - iv. God has not changed.
 1. The Israelites did not please God by disobeying him.
 2. How can we expect God’s blessing when we’re not in his house with his people, or when we don’t put worship first?
- g. Neglecting worship of the Lord is perilous, and these verses are a sober reminder of how serious God is about worship.

B. God Blesses the Obedience of His People’s Worship

- a. Vv 12-15 are a wonderful picture of the people’s obedience and God’s faithfulness.
 - i. The people respond to Haggai (i.e., to the preaching of the Word)
 - ii. God responds by acknowledging “I am with you” in v 13.
 - iii. God stirs up the people to work (Hebrew word in v 14 means “to rouse”).
 - iv. Praise the Lord for repentance (1:14)!
- b. God’s glory is in his house (Psalm 26:8).
- c. God is pleased by his people’s worship.
- d. Worship strengthens us (Psalm 84:4; Ephesians 3:14-16).
- e. God shows love and mercy toward us in Christ and condescends to be present as we worship.

C. Do You Worship with Fear and Reverence?

- a. This text calls on us to consider our own attitudes about worshiping the Lord.
- b. OT teaching
 - i. God detests false worship (Hos 10:1-2; Jer 7:4)
- c. NT teaching
 - i. True worshipers worship in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23).
 - ii. God accepts our worship on account of Jesus Christ (1 Pe 2:4-5).
 - iii. All nations will come to God (Rev 15:4).

Conclusion

A. The book of Haggai makes us think about the following:

- a. The importance of worship from God's point of view (Ex 20:8).
- b. The danger of neglecting worship for other things.
- c. The joy and delight of having a relationship with the Creator of the Universe

B. Reflective Response

- a. How do you regard worship?
 - i. With fear and reverence (Heb 12:28-29)?
 - ii. With an attitude of wonder and humility?
 - iii. With the understanding that only through Christ the Son, by the Holy Spirit do we have meaningful worship of God the Father?
- b. The Lord grants repentance and is united to those worshipers who seek it and truly turn to the Living God (Hag 1:14).
- c. Let us all pray for a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to put in our hearts the joy of worshiping the Living God.
 - i. He is worthy of all praise, honor, glory, dominion and power.
 - ii. Ultimately, our worship of the Lord will reflect our love and devotion to the Savior who has died for us.
 - iii. Worship God in Spirit and in truth! He is Lord of all.