

A Lesson From Haggai

“Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. 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. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways” (Haggai 1:4-7).

His message is clear and distinctive: “Consider your ways!” In other words, take a good look and examine yourselves to see what you have been doing and what you need to do. You have taken care of yourselves, but you have left the Lord out of your lives. Your own houses are looking great, Haggai declares, but the Lord’s house is left in ruins. Haggai challenges the people to get their priorities in the right place. There is nothing wrong with taking care of self as long as you are taking care of the Lord’s work first. However, if we take care of self and neglect the work of the Lord, He will not bless us. Throughout the New Testament, we are commanded to examine ourselves in light of what the Bible says. Paul wrote, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates” (2 Corinthians 13:5)? Are we putting the Lord first in all things? Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33). I fear many have built their own kingdoms and have left the Lord’s kingdom in ruins. Those within the kingdom of God need to examine themselves and truly ask, “have we built our own house and left the house of God in ruins?”

Johnie Scaggs, Jr.