

# Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Message  
of  
Jesus Christ

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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## Consider Your Ways!

**H**aggai, in Chapter One, appeals to the people to rebuild the Temple. Haggai, in Chapter Two, tells us that the glory of the Lord will once again fill the Temple. How glorious is the Word of the Lord to us, "... how unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out" (Rom 11.33)!

The people to whom Haggai prophesied spent time building their houses, making themselves comfortable, taking care of themselves. Though they built their houses that they might live in comfort, their lives were in disarray.

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 (Hag 1.6).

The people were saying that it was not time to rebuild the Lord's House, the Temple. The Prophet Haggai spoke forth the Word of the Lord.

*[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** (Hag 1.4, 5).

The Lord said that the Temple is to be rebuilt now; we are not to walk in our own way, allowing the Temple to lie in ruins.

Paul in I Corinthians 6.19, 20 makes it clear that our bodies are the Temple of the Holy Ghost, and "ye are not your own."

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [*which is*] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Time is of the essence – as it was in the time of Haggai. We must keep this Temple built up in the Lord, encouraged and strengthened in the Word of the Lord. It is time to rebuild the Temple **now**. **Consider Your ways:** are you rebuilding the Temple **or** are you allowing the Temple of the Lord to "lay waste"? We, like the Israelites, have too long lived in our *cieled* [paneled] houses, been complacent about the Temple of the Lord. We have too long been involved in building our own houses, making ourselves comfortable in this world, allowing the Temple of the Lord to "lay waste." We have too long succumbed to the attacks of the enemy, accepting defeat in our work for the Lord. We have centered our attention and efforts on our natural interests and comforts, neglecting our relationship with our Lord and Savior – and have

dwells the Holy Spirit – will know the glory of the Lord as He fills His "House" in them. This glory will fill a living Temple, one used by the Holy Ghost to speak and minister life to others in the body of Christ. This living Temple, abiding and walking in the glory of the Lord, will be His hands and feet going forth to do His bidding and His mouth speaking His powerful, living Word – accomplishing His will (Isa 55.11).

**How long** will it take the body of Christ to respond to the call of God in Christ **Jesus to rebuild the Temple now?** How long will it take us to understand that the glory of this latter house, Christ's Holy Church, will be greater than the former? Let us begin rebuilding the Temple today – each one of us.

**Consider your ways!** Begin today rebuilding the Temple of the Lord Jesus Christ in you remembering that Christ in you is the hope of glory.

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

allowed our spiritual house, the Temple of the Lord, to suffer decay. When we neglect to spend time with the Lord and in His Word, the Holy Bible, our Temple falls into disrepair. **Consider your ways.**

He is calling you and me to rebuild the Temple. It is time that we no longer defile the Temple of God “which is in you.” It is time that we ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into our lives, our hearts, to dwell in His fullness, to take care that our bodies and hearts are not defiled with a worldly mentality and lifestyle. We are not our own; we are bought with a price (I Cor 6.20; 7.23).

The Children of Israel, being attacked by the enemy, were forced to cease building the House of God (Ezr 4.23, 24). During the following twenty years, the people became occupied with building their own houses and making themselves comfortable; they neglected the House of God. The Prophet Haggai was calling them to return to rebuilding the Temple of the Lord. The Lord is calling us to return to rebuilding the Temple of the Lord, to offer unto Him our bodies for the Lord to dwell in as we dwell in Him, live for Him, Who died for us. Jesus laid down His life for us that we would come to Him. The Lord said, “Abide in me, and I in you . . .” (Jn 15.4).

First, the Lord calls us, as He did the Israelites, to rebuild His Temple. We who are members of His Holy Church have this command from the Lord: **“Consider your ways.”** He is telling us to make it our priority to keep His Temple in us in good repair.

Second, we read in the Book of Haggai, Chapter Two, that the glory of the Lord will once again fill the Temple of the Lord; there must be a Temple for the Lord to fill. How glorious are thy ways, O Lord! Come with me to experience the glory that Isaiah makes known to us. As Isaiah was standing at the Mercy-seat, Isaiah experienced the glory of the Lord; he heard the seraphims crying, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts . . .” (Isa 6.3).

Isaiah then wrote “And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke” (Isa 6.4). Isaiah experienced the strength of the presence of the Lord as he was in the Temple of the Lord. We can experience the strength of the Lord in us in “this Temple,” of which Paul writes in I Corinthians – as we seek the Lord to come and dwell in us. Is this smoke not the cloud that led the Children of Israel through their journey through the wilderness? Is this cloud not the presence of the Lord God Almighty? How powerful to know that the presence of the Lord will lead us as we live for Him, walking in obedience – and all for His glory.

Come, Lord Jesus, and fill this Temple of the Holy Ghost, fill me – and all for Your glory! The Lord will dwell within us with His glory – if we live for Him, abide in Him. He loves us and desires to dwell within us. Oh, to know “Christ in you, [in me] the hope of glory”!

To whom God would make known what *[is]* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col 1.27):

Stephen, a deacon, preached powerfully the Word of the Lord, but the people rejected the Word of the Lord; they rejected Stephen for preaching the Truth of Jesus Christ. The Bible says, “When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth (Acts 7.54).

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God (Acts 7.55, 56).

Stephen, as he was being stoned to death, experienced the glory of the Lord. The Bible says he was “full of the Holy Ghost.” His Temple was filled with the glory of the Lord. Stephen knew Christ in him, the hope of glory. Stephen was strengthened for the hour when he needed the Lord. We read in Acts 7.59, 60 that as he was being stoned, he called upon the Lord, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” This was strength, the glory of the Lord upon him – as he lived for the Lord Jesus Christ. The passage of Scripture goes on to say, “And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge . . .” This is what our Lord prayed on the Cross of Calvary, “. . . Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do . . .” (Lk 23.34). The Cross of Calvary reveals the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We read in the Book of Revelation where the elders “fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever” (Rev 5.14). Remember the magi, the wise men, when coming into the presence of Holy God “. . . fell down, and worshipped him . . .” (Mt 2.11). The presence of the Lord is beyond knowing; it is splendor, reverence, brightness, magnificence, preeminence, and honor. His glory demands of us to bow down and worship Him, His Majesty. There are no words to be spoken when in the presence of the Lord.

Ezekiel, if you recall, experienced mightily the glory of the Lord, the Lord’s presence (Eze 1.3). We read that “. . . the hand of the Lord was there upon him.”

And the hand of the LORD was there upon me; and he said unto me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with thee.

Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face (Eze 3.22, 23).

Ezekiel understood the Temple of the Lord, that the Lord dwells in us when we walk with the Lord in obedience to Him. Ezekiel and many all through history have sought that the Lord would “build His Temple in them” and also that the glory of the Lord would once again fill that Temple – fill us, His Temple, anew as we desire to walk on in Him, His power and strength, to serve Him now and for evermore.

**Consider your ways**, saith the Lord. Are you walking with the Lord daily? Are you seeking the Lord to come into your life that you might walk with Him as never before? Seek the Lord in the rebuilding of the Temple that you may know His joy and peace, His strength for each today that He gives you – and all for His glory.

The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts (Hag 2.9).

The glory of this latter house shall be greater because in it is Jesus Christ. Our salvation, our redemption, was paid for by the **Blood of the Lamb of God** through His sacrifice, giving His life on Calvary for our sins. We are talking of Christ’s Holy Church, His followers, His body, that are living for Him daily, serving Him with their lives. Those whose lives are submitted to Him – yielded to being His Temple wherein