

Plugging up Some Holes

Haggai 1:6

Introduction:

- A. Haggai describes Israel's lack of prosperity and its reasons. (vv. 3-6)
- B. Haggai says they were putting their earnings into a bag with holes.
- C. Church in recent years much like putting money into bag with holes.
 - 1. Some churches "growing", but often because members shifting around.
 - 2. Baptizing some, but still losing ground in many places — need to baptize more.
 - 3. Baptizing more is not only solution — need to plug up some holes.
- D. We offer some suggestions to plug up some holes:

Discussion:

- I. Restore New Testament Evangelistic Fervor.**
 - A. Compelled to speak (Acts 4:20)
 - B. Complete involvement (Acts 8:4).
 - C. People not likely to drop out while fervently trying to reach others.
- II. Restore New Testament Discipline (2 Thess. 3:6).**
 - A. Designed to shame one into repentance (2 Thess. 3:14,15)
 - B. Purpose to preserve a soul. (1 Cor. 5:4,5)
 - C. Too many allowed to drift away without disciplinary action.
- III. Ground Brethren in the Faith (Col. 1:23; Acts 16:5).**
 - A. Grounded in basic doctrine of Christ (cf. Eph. 4:11-14)
 - B. Grounded in vital differences (Cf. Ezek. 22:26; 44:23)
 - 1. Difference in preachers and teachers.
 - 2. Difference in churches.
 - 3. Difference in life-styles.
 - C. Grounded against the glitter false ways. (Cf. 2 Pet. 2:18-19).
 - 1. Glitter of worldliness.
 - 2. Glitter of denominationalism.
 - 3. Glitter of "false brethren."
 - D. Grounded in basic reasons for doing things.
 - 1. To serve or to be served. (Matt. 20:28).
 - 2. Spiritual, material or social considerations first.
- IV. Raise Our Expectations of Brethren (Heb. 6:9).**
 - A. Let each know that we believe he can and must:
 - 1. Be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).
 - 2. Do his share (Eph. 4:16).
 - B. Lose people because feel little is expected of them.
- V. Develop Stronger Families (1 Tim. 3:4,5,12).**
 - A. Families with strong ties to the Lord and each other.
 - B. Families involved, as families, in the Lord's work.
 - 1. Attend all services together.
 - 2. Christ-centered home activities.

Conclusion:

- A. We need to bring in the sheaves — also need to guard the barn.
- B. We need to convert all we can — also need to plug up some holes.