Meaningless - Haggai 1:2-8

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes that everything without God is meaningless. All our toil, all our “works” all our money, everything we do without God is utterly meaningless. We cannot do any good at all in this life, without Christ we will die that way as well.

God spoke through Haggai the prophet in the passage we read and told the Israelites the same things. They are toiling but do not have anything to show for it. They are drinking but are never drunk. They are living the life that Solomon warned. They are living a meaningless life.

The Israelites in Haggai came to a crossroads, their dilemma was do we build the temple again or not? Most said it is not the time, but none of them asked God for His guidance in the situation. God stated plainly that He wanted His house to be rebuilt. He stated through Haggai that all of you live in paneled houses or are living the life while God’s temple is in ruin.

We all know from God speaking to David that the Lord does not live in human dwellings. He does not need human dwellings. In fact, Jesus Christ said in John 18:36 that “My kingdom is not of this world” The place of dwelling for the Lord is in as Paul wrote the third heaven. God dwells in a place where treasures cannot be destroyed by moth or rust or vermin. The Kingdom of God is not an earthly place but a heavenly one.

God does not need anyone to build Him a house. He created the world with just His voice. He created all that is in the world with His voice and eventually He will destroy it with just His voice. We cannot build a place that is good enough for Him, or holy enough for our Father.

Knowing all of this, why is God making such a big deal about His house? We must first understand what is going on. The Israelites were just freed from captivity from Babylon for defying the Lord. They were back into the land that God had promised their forefathers, that land that is flowing with milk and honey. They were home.

The problem was they were home, but they had forgotten who brought them home. They had forgotten the promises of God, and most importantly they had forgotten that God is to be honored and praised in all things. The Israelites at the time were being selfish, they were being like we often are, and that is vain. They did not concern their selves with the things God wanted they only worried about themselves, and what they wanted to do.

We as Christians act like that quite often. We can see throughout church history that fractures happened because people wanted things their way. They let their own pride get in the way of worship. God wanted to show the Israelites the same thing He shows us. He wanted to show them that they were not giving, as the old saying goes, credit where credit was due. They were not honoring their Heavenly Father, the same way we do not honor our Heavenly Father when we fail to acknowledge that all things are meaningless without Him.

There are consequences to our actions as believers, the same way as there were consequences for Israel when they forsook God. We as believers need to be on our guard to not be complacent in our worship. We need to worship and honor God as He ought to be.

End….

Last year things changed in America, and throughout the world, as we are starting to try and get back to normal we still have a long way to go but, as bad as the corona virus is the sin virus that infects every single one of us has a 100% mortality rate. Because of sin this body we live in is finite, it will fail one day, and our hearts will beat its final beat. We will have to succumb to death and the grave.

For the non-Christian this is only the beginning of torment. The old saying that this life is as close to heaven as you will ever get is true. There is a place much, much worse that you are headed to without Christ. For the Christian this is as close to hell as we will ever come. We will not longer have to worry about the sin problem in our lives. We will get to enjoy the peace and love of God for all eternity. ---prayer