

**THE BEST IS YET TO BE:**

**GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH HAGGAI**

**God's Promise:**

**"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house." Haggai 2:9 NIV**

**My Promise**

**I will make God's work my work**

Losing your focus is something that we all battle with. There are big things that are now small and small things that have become big. Some were of great importance and are now only a distraction.

The things that distract us are daily things – our children, doing better at work, schedule changes, social commitments and life's demands. Little by little, we think less about God's work in our lives, more, and more about our things. This is normal if we simply want have a routine life, but if we want a life that includes God's presence, then we should review our priorities and as we did in Malachi, seek the splendor of God in our lives, more than the splendor of our achievements and commitments.

Historical Biblical Base (Haggai 1:1-15; 2:1-19)

Outline based on Philippians 3:10-14

FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, WE MUST SEEK TO KNOW CHRIST DEEPLY – Philippians 3:10-11

Knowing Christ personally is one of the desires of all believers. We want to know Him in His power of

miracles, in His healing power, and in His power to change things. That desire is important. However, if we want to see “the best”, we must deepen our knowledge of Christ at a more intense level.

Paul, in the following verses, invites us to take serious decisions.

1. – Losing it all - (10a) – What does it mean to lose it all? Only you know what is stopping you from a deeper relationship and trust in God. You are living in the first radiance. Do you want to look for the second? Lose it all! Give it to Jesus!

2. Experience the power of His resurrection - (10b) - In the power of His resurrection, earthly things certainly become secondary. In His incarnation, Jesus was subject to daily passions. In the power of His resurrection, these passions are no longer impediments. Now, the reality of the power of the resurrection defeats it all. It is manifested in our true identity in Him. We live in the experience of the “second glory”. We rest so that not even death has authority on us.

3. Participate in His sufferings - (10c) – The best way to explain this is to consider what it means, “to suffer with a purpose.” Many believe that to worry is a sign of deepness in Christ. There are culture who mutilate their bodies or do long and hard pilgrimages in order to show suffering. This suffering is temporal. Suffering with a purpose at those times “in which we deny ourselves” are because we want to know Christ in this “second glory.” We stop following those “first” things that were good and desirable, but because we want to go deeper, those things stay behind.

4. Come to be like Him in His death (10-11) – Obviously, we do not want to be crucified. In the likeness of His death simply means to say like Jesus said before He went to the cross, “not my will but yours be done.” It can be said that in some way, “we are dead in life.” The second glory is that which creates a sense of the most precious is not in this world, but rather in the world that is about to come – which is eternity in the presence of God. In order for that to occur, death must intervene (separation). NOT that we desire to die but that we want to be like Jesus in the sense that He was. This is called willingness to want to go through anything in order to get the reward that comes afterward.

DOING WHAT WE MUST DO IN ORDER FOR THE SECOND GLORY BE OUR GOAL – Philippians 12-13

Haggai’s dilemma was that the people had lost their focus on what was important to God. Their focus was themselves without God. They had become comfortable in their life and their own interests.

They thought that they had already “reached it all.” Paul’s desire was to do what is necessary to reach what he had to achieve.

The secret was his “attitude.” It is not necessarily, what we have achieved. It is the attitude that we have.

- We are not perfect...there is still a lot to do.
- We have not reached it all, we are reaching for more.
- We continue forward – We want the “second glory.”

Let’s be “forgetful”. That was Paul’s attitude. This life is temporary and because of it, we cannot hold on to “things” because they will also pass. Forget about the things that we could have done or not have done. It is time to desire only to “try” in order to arrive at what is before us! A forgetful mind is an excellent way to put our eyes upon God.

IN ORDER FOR THE BEST TO HAPPEN, WE MUST HAVE AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE – Philippians 3:14

The eternal perspective is very simple. Continue forward. The problem of the people of Haggai’s time was that they had stopped in the temporal – their homes, their jobs, and their duties. That is “the first splendor.” God does not want a better “earthly temple.” He is looking for a people who desire to edify a better temple. The “second glory.” This splendor is not necessarily a temple but rather His genuine presence. From that is born a desire to give Him the best here. His house is not ignored. It is kept in optimum condition. A paradox is fixed. The first becomes the second and the second becomes the first. That is what it means to have an eternal perspective. Will we make a lot of money? Maybe we will. However, that is not the most important. Will we have the best family? It is possible. However, that is not the most important thing. Will we build the biggest house? If things fall into place. However, that is not the final goal.

The final goal is to build the eternal here on earth. The temple that Haggai was asking for was only the manifestation of a people convinced that they could give God the first place here on earth. “His second splendor” was going to visit them before they could find it in eternity.