



## Get **THE** house in order!

September 16, 2019

**HAGGAI 1:2-4 NKJV** - (2) "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.'" (3) Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, (4) "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple *to lie* in ruins?" (5) Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!"

Imagine the temple (Then). Imagine the house of God now (We are the house). See the dirt accumulating on the foundation. See the vines and overgrowth beginning to cover it. See the decline. Then God speaks. He wants to know why the Jews did not notice the decline and He wants to know why we haven't discovered it today.

The Lord says this: The people are saying: The time has not come for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt..... Is it a time for the people who claim to be my disciples to live in paneled houses, while my house lies in ruins? (**Haggai 1:2-4**) God was angry then and I know He is truly angry now. Why? His house must be built. It cannot lie in ruins.

The Lord says this: When you brought the harvest to your house, I ruined it. Why? Because my house still lies in ruins, while each of you just like the Jews then are busy with their own house. (**Haggai 1:9**) I (personally) have had more than enough time what was being said then and what is being said now.

You know, over 2,500 years ago, the people of God had neglected building the house of God and it seems as if slow erosion was a problem with them too. God didn't like it then and He surely doesn't like it now. I noticed something else.....

In many of our churches today, the senior leader and the leaders up under him, are being told what time to finish their messages. All too often, in our fast paced society, time is the deciding factor in our church services.

It governs the pulpit, with careless disregard for the moving of the Holy Spirit. Above all, the preacher must finish on time. The song service, the announcements, the special music, the liturgy, the offering, the greetings and pleasantries all come first. Often each one runs a minute or two longer than planned, but the preacher must finish on time.

The Holy Spirit may be moving, the message may be urgent, the closing moments, the invitation, the orderly close of the service may be imperative. No matter. Cut it all short. It's time to close. Is it any wonder a grieved Holy Spirit moves on to bless elsewhere? Don't be deceived, God will not be mocked! I could say more, but I believe the title of this meditation speaks for itself.

**SCRIPTURE READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 2:9-12**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** Pursue Christ over programs and not programs over Christ.