

# Wholehearted Purpose

## Haggai 2:10-19

It is now three months since the start of rebuilding of the temple, the foundation was completed and the people of God had come together for the foundation laying ceremony. A few weeks before Haggai gives this message from God, the prophet Zechariah gave a message explaining to the people their need to take repentance to God more seriously (Zechariah 1). Within this context, Haggai speaks to the Jewish community.

### 1. Sin Threatens Our Relationship With God. Vs. 10-14

God led Haggai to question the priests publicly on two scenarios that had obvious answers found in the Scriptures regarding holiness and defilement. It was a message to remind God's people of the seriousness of disobedience, as disobedience will disqualify their worship to their holy God. (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

Although God had provided for the Jews a sacrifice to atone for their sin so they may worship Him, God desires people who are obedient, living out covenant faithfulness from the heart.

Although those who place their faith in Jesus Christ have been redeemed and are now empowered to walk in obedience, we need to continue to take sin seriously. Each day sin threatens our relationship with God, and we can struggle to walk in a manner worthy of how Jesus has called us to love. (Ephesians 4:1; Romans 6:1-2; Hebrews 6)

“Christ has fulfilled the ceremonial law through His death, while the ethical law has continuing validity.” (Matthew 23:23-25) - Mark J. Broda

### 2. Reflect & Commit to God Vs. 15-19

Haggai encourages the people to reflect on the reason for their past problems and a careful reflection on the future (a cursed past to a blessed future). The purpose of God's discipline was to draw His people back to himself. God led Haggai to use the foundation laying ceremony as a reminder that God's discipline has brought them back to Himself and that they need to continue to reflect and choose to be blessed through remaining committed in faithfully living for their God.

God's desire is that His people will experience blessing. Our blessing is found through our Saviour Jesus who died on the cross for our sin and rose again three days later so that we can have a new covenant with God. This allows us to be blessed to have the law written within our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:27), have the freedom now walk in obedience before Him and experience His guidance and provision so we can live out His will for us, for the church (Ephesians 1:3-13; John 10:10).

#### Questions:

1. Outward religious activity (example: rebuilding the Temple) does not make holy a disobedient heart. Is my heart truly obedient to Christ, or am I just going through the motions? (Matthew 23:27-28)

2. What does it look like for a follower of Christ to take sin seriously? What steps do we need to take to allow us to say no to temptation and stand firm against sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful actions?
3. What does a blessed life in Jesus Christ look like for followers of Jesus Christ? With this in mind, how should we approach difficult times?