

## CONSIDER YOUR WAYS

### Consider The Dedication That It Takes To Build Correctly

I. Haggai 2:9 - Here the Prophet just finished sharing that the Glory of the Lord is coming in an unprecedented way, and then goes on to address the issue of holiness and defilement.

**A. THE PROMISE - My premise is that holiness is what causes the Glory to come and defilness causes the Glory to go.**

B. Haggai 2:10-14 - THE PRINCIPLE - You are not only the temple of God but you are the Priest that ministers in the temple.

**1. It's one thing to build the temple, it's another thing to be a clean priest in the temple.**

- Acts 3:19 (TLB)- *“Now change your mind and attitude to God and turn to him so he can cleanse away your sins and send you wonderful times of refreshment from the presence of the Lord.”*

- **God will refresh what we let Him clean.**

Did you know -- In 1842 the first bathtub was denounced as a "luxurious and democratic vanity". Boston made it unlawful to bathe, except on doctor's prescription. In 1843 Philadelphia made bathing illegal between November 1 and March 15. How tragic most Christians have adopted a similar schedule of spiritual cleansing. We would rather put up with the stench of our unconfessed sins than come clean before God!

**During a tour of a large manufacturing plant, a visitor noticed a man using a fiery torch of high intensity to work on huge slabs of steel. Operating from a blueprint on a nearby table, a pointer traced the pattern and then by a clever system of levers enlarged the design as it was burned into the metal. There were times, however, when the flame would not make any impression. When this happened, a chemical substance was applied to the resisting patch, and immediately the cutting could be resumed. The worker explained that although the torch was able to go through clean steel 8 inches thick, if it encountered the slightest film of rust on the surface, the flame would not penetrate it. The Bible-believing visitor remarked, "It struck me forcefully that this is a picture of the Christian. The Holy Spirit is seeking to produce in us God's perfect design. If the area He is seeking to work has been cleansed, He is able to continue His efforts; but if we become carnal or backslidden, His work of shaping us is hindered until the area in question has been thoroughly cleansed."**

2. You have the responsibility of personal holiness. Don't become careless about Holy things.

3. Ezekiel 44:10-14 - **Don't take God's blessing of your life as an approval of your lifestyle**

**B. THE MUST OF CLEANSING - 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 - Either your sin separates you from God or God separates you from sin.**

1. Exodus 25-31, 2 Chronicles 1-5, Ezekiel 40-42 - The Lord is particular about where He lives.
2. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 & Deut 7:22**
  - Ezekiel 42:20 - build up the wall.
  - **Ezekiel 43:1-5 - the Glory comes in.**
  - Ezekiel 47:1-12 - the river flows out.

**C. THE MEANING OF CLEANSING - 1 John 1:9**

1. Forgiveness and cleansing are two different things.
  - **Forgiveness is instant, cleansing is progressive.**
  - Forgiveness deals with the act, cleansing deals with the cause.
  - **Forgiveness is granted, cleansing is applied.**
  - Forgiveness is the result of the Blood of Christ, cleansing is the result of the Body of Christ.
  - **Forgiveness takes away the guilt, cleansing takes away the sin.**

**D. THE METHOD OF CLEANSING - there are a lot of things in scripture that causes cleansing.**

1. **The fear of the Lord will cleanse you. Psalm 19:9**
2. The Word of God will cleanse you - John 15:3
3. **Walking in honest relationship with another will cleanse us - 1 John 1:6-7**
  - Fellowship with one another will cleanse us. Truth produces fellowship - fellowship causes cleansing
  - **You can tell when you have enter into real fellowship because it will bathe you, it will cleanse you.**
  - Leviticus 17:11 - The life of Christ is in the blood of Christ, but the blood flows through the Body of Christ - Us.

- **Forgiveness is the result of appropriating the Blood of Christ, cleansing is a result of having that blood applied to our lives by each other. We are legally clean, but we are not practically clean because we avoid one**
- We don't know where the dirt is until we meet someone who is clean in that spot. As you fellowship in honesty he will take the blood that was applied to him and he will apply it to you.

**E. 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 - The Corinthian Church had leaven in it. Leaven is used in the Bible to symbolize insincerity and Hypocrisy.**

1. Here Paul warned that they were boasting beyond their actual Spiritual condition.
2. **Leaven causes something to look bigger than it actually is - Leaven is the cause of Air holes in bread - Leaven inflats the dough.**
3. The Corinthian Church had leaven in it - It appeared to be more than it was its true moral and Spiritual condition was less than they advertised.
4. **God will accept a small offering but never an inflated one.**

F. The Word of the Lord to us.

1. **"A little leaven works through the whole batch." Its easier to produce an image than it is to walk in reality**
2. "Get rid of the old leaven - Purge out"
3. **So that you may be a New Lump without leaven as you really are.**

G. God can't give you something that you are pretending to have already, He can't change you into somebody that your pretending to be already.

1. **2 Timothy 3:13 - If your in a bad place and you pretend to be in a good place you then keep yourself from the help that you need.**
  - Oscars in heaven
  - **Going to a minister's meeting**
2. You can't put something behind you until you face it.
  - **Jason with a splinter - He wanted the healing without the treatment.**
  - How can God heal what we deny?
  - **How can God touch what we cover up?**
  - How can God grant us pardon when we won't admit guilt.