

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Why We Serve

Adam Phillips | Haggai 2:10-19 | October 2, 2022

1. How many months have passed before Haggai's last message and this one? (See 1:1, 1:15, and 2:1 for context.)
2. Haggai asks the priests to make a ruling on two questions. Both of these rulings show the utter helplessness of our good deeds to make us holy. This is the conclusion of verse 14. The works of the flesh cannot produce anything that is spiritual. Everything is unclean. Do you believe that a person can gain righteousness by trying hard and doing well? Why or why not? How does verses 2:15-17 show the result of our unclean lives?
3. The people in Haggai's time believed that because they had been making sacrifices and listening to priests that they were fine. In reality they had failed to prioritize God and were thus unclean. What types of things do present-day Christians try to do to become holy? Do any of those things work?
4. Read verse 17. Isn't God supposed to be a loving God? Why would he do this to his people? How are God's actions in these verses loving toward his chosen people?
5. Haggai 2:18-19 contrasts the previous verses. In the previous verses they were living under the curse of the law. It could never make a person righteous but only reveal unrighteousness. The new covenant in Christ, however, can declare a person righteous. How is a person to gain this righteousness? What does John 1:12-13 say about this? What about Romans 3:21-24? Does God see you as a righteous person? If so, how?
6. As the people return to obedience they would experience the blessings of the Old Covenant instead of the curses. How is the New Covenant different in the way that we receive blessings? What are the blessings we receive under this New Covenant and how do we receive them? (See Ephesians 1:3-14 for help)

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