

MEN'S MINISTRY at ROME CHURCH

November 15, 2011 (Sorry, Men. I, Pastor Scott, forgot to send this out 2 weeks ago!)

The Book of Haggai

Pastor's Notes

Procrastination. Is it really a sin? *Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow* (or the next day...)? Cleaning off my desk (or the garage) may not be a moral decision or affect the tilt of the Earth if left undone, but inaction may reflect a deeper issue that's affecting other areas of my life. If I can easily ignore or put off amoral issues, am I just as easily neglecting bigger areas that I need to take initiative on, i.e., cleaning out sinful thoughts, making a date with my wife, starting family devotions, or simply replacing one of my selfish habits with one that includes others. Might your family appreciate a little more of your time? Might God? What project are you procrastinating on?

I thought about putting off working on this men's letter. I've put in a long day at the office. But so did Rocky, and he took time to put his thoughts in writing and send them my way. Just maybe some guy out there will read it and make some adjustment in his life. Just maybe.

From my (almost) clean desk,

Pastor Scott

Men's Monday night fraternity: Nov 21 Topic: *How a Man Makes the Money Work at Home*

Come join us on Monday nights as we look into the practical use of the word in our family and marriages. If your family life is good, this will make it better. If your family life isn't so good, it's essential that you be here. Don't hold back, your family needs you to be as spiritually strong as possible. Come join us as we learn, help, and pray for one another.

December Men's breakfast:

Come join us on Saturday December 3 at 8:00am. Jerry Anderson will bring a short message. Come join the fun as we share a meal and look in to God's word. Ed and Rick will be cooking up the breakfast, but let us know if you can help.

Small Groups are happening:

Check out the several small groups that are going on. It's a great way to grow in the word and to meet new friends. Coming to church on Sunday morning is but the beginning of what you can do to grow in the Lord. Step out of your comfort zone, get more involved.

"Practical Application of God's Word"

In studying the book of Haggai, we get the general theme that we are to give careful thought to making God's priorities ours. In my life it seems that I spend most of my time and money doing the things I have to do and the things I like to do. I have to work in order to eat, live, and play. I do think it's a Bible principle to work in order to eat. For my life and yours, what do you think God's priorities are? Are they different for each of us? It seems that if you have a family, your first obligation is to them. Having put five children through the public school system, I can tell you that a child that is involved in clubs or sports spends a lot of time away from home. If the parents support everything the child does, then they too are gone from the home a lot. Some people call this investing into your child's life but some think the kids are so busy at school they have little or no time for God. When I returned to the church in my twenties, my whole life revolved around the activities of the church. This was on the average, three to five events per week. They took priority. Now, sometimes I only make it to church on Sunday. Do you think this is an improvement in my life or a lack of commitment to the Lord? Have I gotten lukewarm? How about you? Haggai was calling the people back to finish the house of the Lord. What is God calling you and me to do? Are we too busy to witness? Have we given our testimony to anyone lately? How long has it been since you led someone to the Lord? Why has it been such a long time? Why do we hide the greatest story ever told? Are we just too busy? Send me your thoughts.

Insights from October 30th Sunday Message (Haggai):

- To enjoy God's greatest blessings make his work your highest priority
- Our neglect of God's priorities brings his disregard of ours
- Our work for God today may seem insignificant; someday you'll see its importance

What's in a concept?:

This week's concept is: What part(s) of our body, soul, and spirit go to heaven when we die? Can you discuss it in a meaningful way? What scriptures would you use to come up with your answer? Can you also discuss why some churches say that when you die you "sleep" until the rapture?

Pastors Bible Question: the set up... In Haggai 2:7 we see that God says he will fill his house with his Glory. He wanted the Jews to rebuild his temple so he could dwell in it. Is God's Glory still relevant today? Does God use other temples to fill with his glory besides the brick and mortar church? In today's world, how do we know if a church is filled with his Glory?

Pastors response:

Three quick answers to 3 good questions:

1. **Is God's Glory still relevant today? Yes, it's the most important thing in the universe. The Heavens know how to reveal God (Ps 19:1), but humans blew it bad when sin entered and distorted God's image in us.**
2. **Does God use other temples to fill with his glory besides the brick and mortar church? Yes. We are God's temple (I Cor. 3:16). The Jews' physical temple in Jerusalem was where God established his name, presence and reputation among his people as a nation. The physical plant didn't exist for the early church. Today, a building is only a convenient place for the real church, the spiritual body of Christ, to congregate.**
3. **In today's world, how do we know if a church is filled with his Glory? God is glorified in his people by their displaying his qualities and character in action and attitude, whether gathered together or out mingling in society.**

Take away truths from Haggai:

- expect both internal and external distractions from doing God's work
- build a life that looks like God's
- help build a church that looks like Christ's body
- put your priorities aside for God's

Sunday Quotes:

- Limited resources are God's opportunity to be glorified in our need
- Good works come after salvation; they don't cause it.

And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. Haggai 2:7