

A BAG WITH HOLES **(Haggai 1:3-6)**

I. Life out of Christ.

- A. The spiritual blessings that God offers to mankind are all found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 1. There are some great gifts, as we noticed a few Sundays ago, that are found in Ephesians 1.
 - 2. They all belong to the one who is in Christ.
- B. As long as one is in Jesus Christ, there is no condemnation for that person (Romans 8:1).
- C. One gets into Christ by putting Him on in baptism (Galatians 3:27).
- D. When one is baptized into Christ, He is baptized into the one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- E. There will be those who come to Jesus at the judgment talking of the good they did and will be denied by Jesus because they were outside of Him in this life (Matthew 7:21-23).

II. Life by human authority.

- A. There are those that wait on the convention of their denomination each year to know what to believe and teach.
- B. Some wait and watch for a message from the Pope before they decide how they will believe or act.
- C. Others go to their various creed books or catechisms instead of going to the word of God.
- D. Some listen to what their parents, spouse, friends or preacher tells them and simply go along with that.
- E. Some listen to their own ideas, opinions or desires about how something should be viewed, taught or believed.
- F. You and I, and all the world, are one day going to be judged by the words of Christ (John 12:48).
 - 1. We won't stand before the judgment seat and be asked what we believed on a certain issue.
 - 2. We won't stand before the judgment seat and be asked what our preacher, friends or parents believed on a certain issue.
 - 3. Our thoughts and ways are not God's (Isaiah 55:8).
 - 4. Our ways lead to death (Proverbs 16:25).

III. Failure to put the kingdom first.

- A. We will have what we need when we put the kingdom first (Matthew 6:33).
- B. First indicates top priority and being above all else.
- C. How many Christians go through life being unhappy?
 - 1. The reason many do is because they are not putting the kingdom first and it is bothering them.
 - 2. They are unhappy because they are not living the full life they want to live.
 - 3. They want to be in the world, but know they are supposed to be in Christ and they become miserable.

- D. Many, but not all, that have lost children to the world can look back and see, if they would do so, that at the important stages in the life of their children there were other things more important than the kingdom.
- E. For the Christian, when life is lived without God in authority and preeminent in our lives, our lives are like a bag with holes.

IV. Laying up treasure on earth.

- A. How many people, and even some Christians, do we know that are consumed with having the latest and greatest things?
 - 1. I know of people that will pay a lot of money for the new phone when the one they have works just fine.
 - 2. People get new cars when the one they have is fine, but for status's sake, they need a new one.
- B. Notice what Paul told Timothy (1 Timothy 6:7).
 - 1. The things we accumulate will do us no good when we are dead.
 - 2. The ones to whom we leave these things will do with them what they want (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19).
- C. Instead of worrying about what we have here, we need to be concerned with what we are sending ahead (Matthew 6:19-21).

V. Faith without works.

- A. James 2:26.
- B. How many people do we know that say they believe in God but don't do anything for Him?
 - 1. They will say great things about God and then live for the devil.
 - 2. They say they believe in God and are saved and have not done what He has said to do to be saved.
- C. It may be the case that people have obeyed the gospel and say they believe in God but don't live for Him.
 - 1. This is the situation to which James was referring.
 - 2. James 2:15-17.
- D. The Christian who says he believes in God and loves Him but does not live for Him lives a life that is like bag with holes.
 - 1. He is wasting His time.
 - 2. His efforts in obeying the gospel will be worthless because there has been no living faithfully unto death.
- E. Faith is really an action word.
- F. Faith must do, move, respond, work and act for it to be useful.

VI. Works without faith.

- A. There is no doubt that work is part of the life of a Christian.
- B. However, if it is not done out of faith it is useless (Romans 14:23).
- C. Faith is the motivator for what we do.
 - 1. It does no good to come to services if not moved by faith in God to do so.
 - 2. It does no good to read one's Bible if not moved by faith to do so.
 - 3. It does no good to do good deeds if not moved by faith to do so.
- D. One who lives his life in such a way is like someone who is just going through the motions.

1. They are doing things out an “I’ve got to do this” attitude.
 2. We are supposed to do things out of an “I want to do this” attitude because it means we have faith in God.
- E. Faith is the ingredient to victory (1 John 5:4).

From an outline by Manly Luscombe