Life Group Devotion

FEAR NOT - Week of December 21

Hear the words of the LORD through the prophet, Haggai—

Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! ... Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the LORD" (Haggai 1:3-6, 8).

Haggai speaks in the post-exile period. We are in a post exile period, of sorts, as we enter this time of revival spreading across this nation – indeed, across all nations of the world – and a holy pruning and purification has commenced upon His Church. Perhaps Haggai's words speak to us today: Why do you spend so much time and money building your own house while neglecting the House of the LORD? Why do you go into debt for things that are swiftly passing away? This time of year, you purchase all sorts of material gifts for kids and family... where is my gift, asks the Lord Jesus, the only gift you can give me ... your heart?

The Lord doesn't need our money he owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). We should never trust in our wealth or boast in our riches; for the wealthiest individual can never redeem himself/herself from death (see Psalm 49:6-7).

The only way to experience real freedom, new life, and soul redemption is by believing upon (surrendering) to the Lord Jesus Christ. The House of the LORD is where life-change happens, where we worship God and have opportunity to offer the gift of our hearts to Christ. The House of the LORD is where people come to know God personally through His Christ – Emmanuel *God with us* – and encounter the presence of his Holy Spirit. The House of the LORD is *HOME* where we experience the sweet fellowship of fellow Christ-followers.

The Gospel is for all people! Remember the words of the angel: ... but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!", he said, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to ALL people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" (Luke 2:10-11, emphasis added)

- Think about it: the Magi were Gentiles coming from eastern lands. The shepherds were dirty. They were not welcome in the temple because they were unclean. Yet, Heaven's first announcement of our Lord's birth was to them. What does this say about the Gospel being for all people? Do you really believe the Good News is for all people? (be honest)
- What is our focus at Christ Church? Reflect upon our mission statement ...

Reaching millions of unchurched persons by developing thousands of fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

In Closing—

Reflect upon and discuss the following Scriptures. Write down at least one new takeaway (or bullet point) from each Scripture. Circle or highlight any reference to **all** people in each passage—

Genesis 12:3b

Isaiah 56:1-8

John 3:16-17

Joel 2:32/ Acts 2:21

Romans 10:5-13

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Revelation 3:20-22; 22:17

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

December 21: Zechariah 1:1-21, Revelation 12:1-17, Psalm 140:1-13, Proverbs 30:17 December 22: Zechariah 2:1-3:10, Revelation 13:1-18, Psalm 141:1-10, Prov. 30:18-20 December 23: Zechariah 4:1-5:11, Revelation 14:1-20, Psalm 142:1-7, Proverbs 30:21-23 December 24: Zechariah 6:1-7:14, Revelation 15:1-8, Psalm 143:1-12, Proverbs 30:24-28 December 25: Zechariah 8:1-23, Revelation 16:1-21, Psalm 144:1-15, Proverbs 30:29-31 December 26: Zechariah 9:1-17, Revelation 17:1-18, Psalm 145:1-21, Proverbs 30:32 December 27: Zechariah 10:1-11:17, Revelation 18:1-24, Psalm 146:1-10, Prov. 30:33



Text: Haggai 1: 4, 7-11 & 2:1-9, Luke 1:28-33

Plain Truth

A fear of	is	us from
allowing God to bless us through the		
of his Son Jesus Christ.		
1. Jesus' gift of	is fo	orpeople
2. A "fear not" life is	one of	,
who then gives us		_ to face our fears.
3. A "fear not" life re	quires	_ of God which
takes focused	·	
4. A "fear not" life pl	aces God	all