

# Living In Paneled Houses

*Haggai 1:2-6*

Introduction: E.M Gray spent his life searching for one trait all successful people share (not hard work, good luck, social skills) it was priorities or sense of purpose.

Intro to Book of Haggai: Dates, situation, people had been discouraged in building the Temple and never got back to work.

## I. Stop Making Excuses

“The time has not yet come for Temple of the Lord to be built” Haggai 1:2

They supported it, thought it should be done. But not now.

Benjamin Franklin “I never knew a man who was good at making excuses be good at anything else.”

We rationalize:

My kids need me to do this

When life slows down

Perhaps a more convenient time, Acts 24:25

## II. Stop Being Selfish

“Is it time for you to live in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?” Haggai 1:4

Not an attack on having nice places to live. But a conviction by habits

Some spend their best hours, best time, best talents on selfish things

It is our natural tendency, we must constantly put the old man to death and live newly for Jesus.

## III. Stop Missing God's Blessings

“Think carefully about your ways, you plant much but harvest little, you drink but are still thirsty, have clothes but still cold, make money but lose it” Haggai 1:5-6

When Our priorities are in the wrong place, we miss out on the purpose of life.

Stuff can never fulfill us. When we feel empty God is telling us.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things added.

## IV. Evaluate Your Life

“Consider Your Ways” Haggai 1:5-7

Socrates “The unexamined life is not worth living”

Where is your relationship with God. What needs to change?

A. Are you active in the right things?

“Go up in the hills, bring down lumber, and build the house. Then I will be pleased and glorified.” Haggai 1:8

B. Is God glorified in your life? Haggai 1:8

C. Are you blessed by God?

“When the people obeyed, God said, “I am with you.”

Haggai 1:13