

**Feb. 11, 2018**

**Rev. Joe Greene**

**Haggai 1**

Review background.

Review sermon. What point or image lingers from the sermon?

- Since we're now under grace, what part does obedience play in the life of the believer? (C.S. Lewis write, "every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before." (See below for his excellent comment on Christian morality in context.)

- Does God still "curse" his people (us) for disobedience?

--If so, what is the aim of that curse, both in Haggai's time and now?

- Paul tells the Christians at Corinth, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?" (I Cor. 3.16) What is the relation between rebuilding God's temple in 520 B.C. and "rebuilding" God's temple (us) now.

- List who is involved in rebuilding the temple? (God, Haggai, the governor and high priest, the people.) Each was important: the prophet, the leaders, and the people. Do we still need that kind of community and teamwork, or is it enough to build our own temple?

- What's the one repeated phrase in Hag. 1?

- Why is having a "house" or "temple" important to an omnipresent God?

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, p.92

"People often think of Christian morality as a kind of bargain in which God says, "If you keep a lot of rules I'll reward you, and if you don't I'll do the other thing." I do not think that is the best way of looking at it. I would much rather say that **every time you make a choice you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before.** And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or into a hellish creature: either into a creature that is in harmony with God, and with other creatures, and with itself, or else into one that is in a state of war and hatred with God, and with its fellow-creatures, and with itself. To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power. To be the other means madness, horror, idiocy, rage, impotence, and eternal loneliness. Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other."