***obedient ownerSHIP***

**Stewardship Worship Series – Week 4**

***The Divine Promises***

**Based on the book: *Haggai & Friends: Sixty-six Perspectives on Stewardship***

**By Patrick McLaughlin**

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.  |

**Announcements and Offering**

***The Divine Promises***

**Call to Worship:**

Haggai’s fourth message (Haggai 2:20-23) is three verses with lots of promises. Haggai concludes with a special message to governor Zerubbabel, who has taken the lead in response to the prophetic and stewardship summons. Once again Jehovah renews the promise of salvation to his chosen people who are rebuilding the second temple in Jerusalem. The Messiah was to return as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords amid all the overthrow of nations, kingdoms, and rulers. He was to redeem and deliver his people.

Haggai’s prophecy was an admonition to get your life in order to consider your ways! How can we honor God with our time, our talent, and our treasure? We must manage all of our life according to the will of the owner, Jehovah God, his son Jesus Christ, and under the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

 (*Haggai & Friends*, pp. 99-105)

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| **HC#231 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah****SB#27** | HC-231TB-399 – Cwm Rhondda | HCD22-T11HTD3-T7 (4 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#47 – O God, our help in ages past****HC#118 (with Chorus)** | TB-113 – St. AnnHC-118 | HTD5-T18 (4 vs.)HCD10-T18 |
| **SB#253 – For all the saints who from their labors rest** | TB-461 – Sine Nomine | HTD12-T14 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#183 – My Life Is in You** | HC-183 | HCD17-T13 |
| **HC#189 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing****SB#830** | HC-189TB-374 – Nettleton  | HCD17-T19 |
| **HC#191 – Be Thou My Vision****SB#573** | HC-191TB-831 – Slane  | HCD18-T11 |
| **HC#221 – Servants of God** **SB#97** | HC-221TB-479 – Hanover | HCD21-T11HTD4-T4 (3 vs.) |
| **HC#246 – 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)** | HC-246 | HCD23-T16 |

***Giving Stories***

**Testimonies/Stewardship Testimony**

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| **SB#570 – And is it so? A gift from me** | TB-138 – Slater | HTD6-T17 (4 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **SB#255 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-213 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#623 – Take my life and let it be** | TB-249 – Hendon | HTD8-T6 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#627 – There is a holy hill of God**  | TB-70 – Fewster  | HTD3-T13 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#579 – Come, Savior Jesus, from above** | TB-10 – Deep Harmony | HTD5-T6 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#630 – We have not known thee as we ought** | TB-442 – Melita | HTD9-T11 (4 vs.) |

***I* *Have Chosen You***

**Scripture Alive!** (Haggai 2:20-23, The Voice)

**Leader:** 20That same day the prophet Haggai received a second message from the Eternal One.

**Eternal One:** 21Tell Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, that I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens. 22I will upend royal thrones and shatter the power of foreign kingdoms. I will crash chariots and their drivers; horses and their riders will be killed in confusion and chaos, each by the sword of his countryman. 23On that day, I will choose you, my servant Zerubbabel; this I declare. I will make you My choice as a signet ring representing the wishes of its owner because I have chosen you.

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| **HC#142 – All for Thee** **SB#623** | HC-142TB-241 – same  | HCD13-T12 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#166 – We Fall Down** | HC-166 | HCD15-T16 |
| **HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty****SB#376** | HC-219TB-722 – same  | HCD20-T19 |
| **HC#249 – Near to the Heart of God** | HC-249 | HCD23-T19 |

**Intercessory Prayers**

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Giving Stories***

**Testimonies/Stewardship Testimony**

[Each week there is a section of the service called *Obedient Ownership*. The prophet Haggai and all of his Old and New Testament ‘friends’ (authors of the books of the Bible) will help us understand stewardship as a lifetime priority. From Genesis to Revelation there are hundreds of verses on stewardship. This responsive reading highlights many of those verses with an introduction to the book, a stewardship verse from that book and the stewardship principle contained in the book. See below Romans as an example. This reading could also be done during the offertory as the offering is being taken.]

**Responsive Reading: *Obedient Ownership***

 **(New Testament Record)**

**Reader 1:** Stewardship is a lifelong commitment. The book of Romans clearly defines the job description of the steward:

**All:** *1And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

 (Romans 12:1, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The stewardship principle in Romans: 9Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. 13When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

**Reader 1:** In 1 Corinthians, Paul talks about gifts of time and talent and how to invest them in the body of Christ. He reminds us these gifts are also from the Lord.

**All:** *4There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.7A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The 1 Corinthians stewardship principle: Use every gift at your disposal to build up the church. Help people; be generous and systematic in your giving. Your giving should be reflective of your ability and capacity; it is not about equal giving but about equal sacrifice.

**Reader 1:** Paul, the author of the book of Galatians was all about grace. He states that justification is by faith, not by works or our vain attempts to fulfill the law. The fifth chapter speaks of the fruit of the spirit. Are these not qualities of a biblical steward?

**All:** *22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

(Galatians 5:22-23, ESV)

**Reader 2:** The Galatians stewardship principle: The tithe—10% of our gross income—was an attempt to fulfill the law. The New Testament calls us to go beyond what the law demands, to make giving a lifestyle; the tithe is a great place to start but not the place to stop as we grow and mature as stewards.

**Reader 1:** In the book of 1 John, John the Beloved calls his readers to reconsider these three basics of the life of a steward: true doctrine, obedient ownership and fervent devotion.

**All:** *15Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. 16For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. 17And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.*

(1 John 2:15-17, NLT)

**Reader 2:** The stewardship principle in 1 John: If you are obedient and fervent in your stewardship walk and allow the light of God’s Word to shine on your investments of work, wisdom, and wealth, you will be blessed eternally and live with God forever.

(*Haggai & Friends*, pp. 155-162, 175)

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| **Drama – Authority Figure** |

**Message – The Divine Promises**

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| **HC#160 – I Surrender** | HC-160 | HCD14-T20 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#170 – There Is None Like You** | HC-170 | HCD15-T20 |
| **HC#149 – In Christ Alone****SB#861** | HC-149TB-132 – same  | HCD13-T19 |
| **HC#117 – Draw Me Close** | HC-117 | HCD10-T17 |
| **HC#89 – Knowing You****SB#565** | HC-89TB-725 – same  | HCD7-T19 |
| **HC#156 – Enter In** | HC-156 | HCD14-T16 |
| **HC#167 – I’m in His Hands****SB#848 (Chorus)** | HC-167TB-659 – His way is best | HCD15-T17 |
| **HC#168 – Offering** | HC-168 | HCD15-T18 |
| **HC#207 – Grace Alone****SB#699** | HC-207TB-640 – same  | HCD19-T17 |
| **HC#208 – Faithful God****SB#360** | HC-208TB-607 – same  | HCD19-T18 |
| **HC#245 – Known to You**  | HC-245 | HCD23-T15 |
| **HC#247 – Still, My Soul, Be Still**  | HC-247 | HCD23-T17 |
| **HC#249 – Near to the Heart of God** | HC-249 | HCD23-T19 |
| **SB#623 – Take my life and let it be** | TB-246 – Consecration Hymn | HTD12-T3 (3 vs. – combine 2 verses) |
| **SB#208 – When I survey the wondrous cross**  | Old TB-13 – BostonTB-875 – The Wonderful CrossHC-94 | HTD1-T4 (4 vs.)HCD8-T14 |
| **SB#588 – I bring to Thee my heart to fill** | TB-414 – Christ is all | HTD3-T6 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#636 – All to Jesus I surrender** | TB-333 – I surrender all | HTD5-T9 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#750 – Father, I know that all my life** | TB-111 – Spohr | HTD10-T14 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#613 – O Jesus, I have promised**  | TB-213 – Aurelia  | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#646 – How can I better serve Thee, Lord**  | TB-15 – Here at the cross | HTD4-T6 (3 vs.) |

**Benediction:**

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| **HC#149 – In Christ Alone****SB#861** | HC-149TB-132 – same  | HCD13-T19 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#150 – The Lord Bless Thee and Keep Thee** | HC-150 | HCD13-T20 |
| **HC#147 – Thine Is the Kingdom** | HC-147 | HCD13-T17 |
| **HC#109 – Total Praise** | HC-109 | HCD9-T19 |

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| **Week #4** |
| **DRAMA****Authority Figure****By Joe Caddy and Erin McDonald**© Copyright 2019 by Bill Booth Theater Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |
| **Topic:** | Responsibility |
| **Scripture:** | Haggai 20-23 |
| **Synopsis:** | A teenager feels overwhelmed by the responsibility entrusted toher by her parents when they leave her to babysit her younger siblings. |
| **Characters:** | DadMarley – High School Freshman |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Two mobile phones |
| **Setting:** | Dad is at a restaurant. Marley is at home. |
| **Running time:** | 4 minutes |

[*MARLEY is stage left as she calls Dad.*]

**Marley:** C’mon...pick up the phone...pick up the phone…

[*DAD enters stage right. He answers his phone.*]

**Dad:** Hello, Marley.

**Marley:** Dad!

**Dad:** So maybe the third time is the charm, eh?

**Marley:** Huh?

**Dad:** This is the third time that you’ve called since we… never mind,

kiddo, what’s up?

**Marley:** What’s up? What’s up? That’s all you can say when your whole family is literally about to blow up in my face?

**Dad:** Well, they do call it a ‘nuclear’ family for a reason...

**Marley:** This is no time for dad jokes! This is serious!

**Dad:** I’m sorry, honey. I take it that things aren’t going so smoothly with our little babysitting experiment?

**Marley:**  They are monsters!

**Dad:**  They are your little brother and sister. They are not—

**Marley:** Yes, they are! They are terrible!

**Dad:** What makes them so terrible this time?

**Marley:** Everything!

**Dad:** Examples?

**Marley:** Like, Sarah wouldn’t eat her dinner so now she’s upset that I told her that she wouldn’t get any ice cream.

**Dad:**  Sounds fair. How about Nathan?

**Marley:** Oh, he ate his dinner, alright. All of it. But then he slopped his ice cream all over his face, his hands, the table. And he wouldn’t even help me clean it up!

**Dad:**  Sorry, Marley, that’s just how it goes sometimes.

**Marley:** Now they won’t stop jumping on the couch…even though you’ve repeatedly told us not to…

**Dad:** Maybe you could just gently remind them that we—?

**Marley:** It didn’t work! Why didn’t you guys warn me that little kids won’t listen to a single word that their authority figure has to

say?

**Dad:** I don’t know, there’s something a bit gratifying about having you figure that one out for yourself. (*beat*) Marley, it sounds like you’re doing just fine. Seriously. Just trust your instincts.

**Marley:** Ha. What instincts?

**Dad:** You’re a good kid and you know what’s right and wrong. You’ll be fine. I should really get back to—

**Marley:** But what if it gets worse? What if something tragic happens and someone knocks out a tooth and needs to go to the emergency room? I can’t have that on my head. I don’t get paid enough for that kind of responsibility.

**Dad:** I don’t know. Full room and board seems pretty reasonable.

**Marley:** Maybe I should just close myself in my room and just let them fend for themselves.

**Dad:**  That doesn’t seem like a wise choice.

**Marley:** What? It’s not my fault they make bad decisions that potentially lead to personal injury and possible mass destruction.

**Dad:** Ah, but it would be your fault if you could have kept them from causing injury to themselves and others and just chose to ignore

them instead.

**Marley:** Oh. (*Beat*) But wouldn’t YOU then be responsible for MY negligence? Since you were the one who left me in charge?

**Dad:** We wouldn’t have put you in charge in the first place if we didn’t think you could handle it.

**Marley:** But they know I don’t have any REAL authority.

**Dad:** Sure, you do. You have our authority. On loan. On a limited basis.

**Marley:** If you say so.

**Dad:** We believe in you. Besides, it’s almost their bedtime and then soon enough you’ll have the whole house to yourself.

**Marley**: (*sarcastically*)Woo-hoo. A quiet house so I can finish my homework.

**Dad:**  I didn’t say anything about quiet.

**Marley:** Wait a minute, how am I supposed to get them to sleep?

**Dad:** Just go through the normal routine that you’ve seen us do. They’re used to that.

**Marley:** O-K...

**Dad:** The trick is to stay calm but firm. Be loving and gentle and they’ll follow along.

**Marley:** And if that doesn’t work?

**Dad:** We’ll be home a little bit later. We’ll deal with it then.

**Marley:** Hmm. That’s an interesting point. The “Wrath of Dad.”

**Dad:**  I don’t like the sound of that.

**Marley:** Maybe the mere thought of it would be enough to scare them into submission!

**Dad:** Marley, honey, I don’t want you to—

**Marley:** Sorry, dad, gotta go. (*Hangs up. Yelling toward offstage*) Alright you little booger-munchers! You’ve got exactly 10 seconds to get into your PJs or I’m telling dad about that cute little stunt you pulled with his toothbrush.

**Dad:** (*to himself*) Maybe we should have started with dog sitting.

[Blackout]

***obedient ownerSHIP***

**Sermon – Week 4**

***Divine Promises***

**Based on the book: *Haggai & Friends: Sixty-six Perspectives on Stewardship***

**By Patrick McLaughlin**

**By Captain Caleb Senn**

**Title: *Divine Promises***

**Scripture: Haggai 2:20-23**

We are concluding our series on Haggai today. The prophets were equipped by the Holy Spirit

to bring a message not just to those in their sphere of influence but to each one of us who are

impacted by God’s Word. We understand that God’s Word is living. It is not stuck in a certain

portion of history but it is alive today and can impact us still.

Haggai is exceptionally good at giving us specific date markers in order to know exactly when

his prophecy took place. In this week’s reading he uses the time reference, “on that same day.”

Haggai then reveals God’s plan. How great is it to know that God had a plan in the Old

Testament and his plan is still relevant today?

Haggai concludes with a special message to the governor Zerubbabel, who has taken the lead in response to the prophetic and stewardship summons.

*The word of the Lord came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month: “Tell Zerubbabel governor of Judah that I will shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and tier drivers; horses and their riders will fall, each by the sword of his brother.”* (Haggai 2:20-21, NIV)

Once again Jehovah renews the promise of salvation to his chosen people who are rebuilding the second temple in Jerusalem. The prophecy to the community was the preservation and care of the Davidic monarchy, represented for the time by Zerubbabel in the midst of the storms that were about to burst upon the power of the world.

With this general promise given to the people (shaking of the nations), a particular assurance is given to Zerubbabel who had been first summoned to undertake this rebuilding project and lead the people back to Jehovah. He is told not to fear, even though his position seemed to be weak by human reckoning, for he had been chosen and established by Jehovah himself. God will have the final say and there will be a whole lot of shaking going on.

*23 “‘On that day,’ declares the Lord Almighty, ‘I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”*

(Haggai 2:23, NIV)

The final verse of Haggai, like many others, is power packed. It has two significant themes—the current situation and a future reference to the Messiah. The Messianic promise made to David was transferred to Zerubbabel and his family and culminates in Jesus Christ, the son of David and a descendent of Zerubbabel.

Jehovah promises to present Zerubbabel and his descendant Jesus Christ as a signet ring, an ornament for the entire world to see and appreciate for the reminder it was of his Messianic plan. With the final message of this important minor prophet, the prophecy is given a Messianic range and depth that make it more than the mere illustration of an important truth. As the ruler, called by God to rebuild the temple, Zerubbabel foreshadows the “chief cornerstone” of the new spiritual house, Jesus Christ.

(*Haggai and Friends*, pp. 101-104)

God’s plan is even more perfect and more complete than we could ever imagine. We know that

God’s plan includes our redemption. The question today is, can you live with that plan?

Stewardship is not about what we do in a moment, it’s about ongoing obedience and surrender

through our living. Why are we good stewards? Because we are confident that God has a plan.

If our stewardship is lacking it’s because we are uncertain of whether or not we can live with that

plan. In other words, we want to follow our own plan. We have difficulty living with God’s plan

because we want to control every aspect of what our life will look like.

As we look through the prophetic books, we come to realize that God never asked the prophets

to give their feedback as he revealed his plan. God’s plan is perfect. It does not rely on human

feedback. It relies on obedience and surrender.

Over the course of this series the words obedience and surrender have frequently been brought

to our attention. The measure of our obedience is directly associated with the measure of our

surrender. If we are not being obedient in regard to God’s plan for our life, what does that say

about our surrender?

Let’s look at Acts 2:

*A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.*

(Acts 2:43-47 NLT)

This is a picture of stewardship! This is the picture of a community that has their priority set on

time, talent, and treasure. They have come together so that the community of faith can exist and

give glory to God. Their level of surrender is in direct correlation to the level of their obedience.

However, even in these moments they do not know what the future holds. There will be love,

there will be encouragement, there will be disagreements, there will be conflict, and they cannot

predict any of it. However, that does not stop them from surrendering and being obedient.

[*insert personal illustration:*]

Stephanie and I were recently having lunch with a friend who lost both of his parents within a year of each other. As his parents aged and became weak, he secretly hoped that his mother would go to her eternal home first because he did not believe she could survive without his father. However, that was not the way the plan worked out. His father passed away first. He shared with us that he could now see that God’s plan was best. There were certain aspects that simply would not have worked out the same way if his father had remained and his mother had departed before him.

Each of us most likely has a story to tell where we were in the midst of a situation, watching

events transpire in our life, and we could not explain why they were happening the way they

were. However, looking back now we can see God’s hand. If only we knew at the time that God

had a plan! But, we did know. We just weren’t certain if we could live with it.

God’s way is best. We often cannot see this in the moment so we must have faith.

As we acknowledge the importance of understanding that God has a plan, let’s delve further into

what that means for our time, talent, and treasure.

**TIME**

Our time is not God’s time. Are we being God-honoring in our time? I know that people get

nervous when the pastor talks about time. You may feel as though I’m going to ask you to give

more of your time in volunteerism. Not at all. I just want to encourage you to be sensitive to how

you are glorifying God with your time.

God’s ideal is not for us to be so generous with our time that we have no time for ourselves.

That is not God honoring. Part of the stewardship of time is understanding the need for

boundaries. We must especially understand the need that we have a limited amount of time.

We must also have the understanding that we need time with God before we can have time in

service on his behalf. We cannot pour out from empty cups.

Wasting time is something that we all seem to do. This world offers us a hefty amount of

distractions that can potentially keep us from honoring God with our time. Often, this takes the

form of social media. However, this could also take the form of rumination.

Stewardship with our time is not necessarily giving more of our time, but giving God honor

through our time. Are we being obedient, if not what do we need to surrender to the Lord?

**TALENT**

[*insert personal illustration*:]

A young preacher received an invitation to bring the message at a large church with an aging congregation. He was honored by the invitation and began to study intensely for the message that he would offer. When the day came for him to deliver the message, he had done his study and he had confirmed that everything was hermeneutically correct. After he was introduced, he confidently walked to the pulpit to begin his delivery. As he delivered the message, he could feel the utter boredom in the room. He continued preaching and became more and more defeated, finally leaving the platform with slumped shoulders and sitting quietly in the front row.

After the service an older woman came to him and said, “May I give you a piece of advice?” He nodded his head yes and she continued on. “If you would have gone up the way you came down, you would have come down the way you went up.”

When we consider what it is to be stewards of our talent, we must consider humility and grace

as essential components. It is not about what we offer, it is about how we offer it. Are we

bringing our offering with humility and grace? Are we saying, “Here I am, Lord. Use me fully.”

**TREASURE**

*Now regarding your question about the money being collected for God’s people in Jerusalem. You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.*

(1 Corinthians 16:1-2, NLT)

There is a priority commanded in these verses. It is about allowing your priorities to be set

straight and giving God first place in your life. On the first day! Are we honoring God with our

first gift?

There are times where we allow the feeling of insignificance to stop us from giving. We should

never feel that our gift is not enough. If we are giving from a spirit that is faithful, surrendered

and obedient, our gift brings pleasure to God. And he blesses us.

There are financial responsibilities for this church. We need to heat/air-condition the building, keep it clean, and supply a qualified staff for a community effort. All of this takes us working together and bringing our gifts. Today, I am not asking for a certain number, I am simply asking for your faithful surrender that leads to obedience. What is the spirit saying to you in this regard?

As we consider our time, talent, and treasure this morning, are we glorifying God in what we are

offering him? Are we being obedient? What do we need to surrender?

If stewardship is truly everything we do after we say we believe, then our only goal is obedience. All parts of my life must be managed according to the will of the Owner so I will one day enter His presence and hear these words, “Well done thou faithful servant.” You have proven yourself as an “Obedient Owner.”