

*from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Ephesians 4:16*

## Responsibility

### Store In My Heart

#### Haggai 1:3-4

Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?"

Haggai prophesied to the first Jewish exiles to return from Babylon to Jerusalem. When they first returned they were urgent to rebuild the temple but over time they stopped working on the temple. They began to build for themselves rather than build for God. Haggai was sent by God to remind the people of their need to focus on God first even in rebuilding their land and nation.

This is an ever present danger among God's people. Many times in the New Testament we are warned to be busy doing God's work. Our blessings are dependent upon working for Him. We cannot let our 'day to day' get between us and God.

*"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."* **Romans 12:3-5**

It has been said "ability plus opportunity equals responsibility." Surely each of us can recognize that everyone in a congregation has responsibilities. The big question is are we fulfilling those responsibilities?

Elders are to lead the congregation, overseeing its work and worship. Guiding and directing so that all are built up in the faith, growing and developing into more mature Christians as the years go by. Deacons are to serve the church, following the direction of elders while caring for the needs of the local assembly of Christians. Preachers are given the responsibility to preach the word, presenting to each member and the congregation as a whole, that which will help them grow and become stronger Christians. Each member has a responsibility to help their brethren to increase and grow, while growing themselves. Men are to take the lead in directing the worship and classes. Women are to teach the younger women, by word and example.

Every member of a congregation has the responsibility to visit and comfort the sick and needy. Every individual



## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has had a better week.

Jimmy Gray is to have knee surgery on Monday.

JoBeth Henderson is dealing with sciatic nerve pain as her leg mends.

Dan & JoBeth are at Prince St in Conway this morning. They should be back tonight for class.

Tonight we start in 1Samuel 26.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Ephesians 5.

Join us for all these studies.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

Christian has the responsibility of seeking out those who have erred from the Truth and helping them correct their error that they might be saved. All Christians also are responsible for seeking the lost of this world. Each one of us must recognize and use the opportunities given to us to the best of our ability.

Consider the abilities God has given to you. Consider the opportunities that are presented to you every day. Such consideration should lead you to understand your responsibilities as a Christian and a member of a local congregation of God's People. Now ask yourself, "Am I fulfilling my responsibilities to God and my brethren?" "What can I do to better use the abilities God has given me in taking advantage of the many opportunities that I see each day?" Carefully consider these thoughts and fulfill your obligations to God and your brethren. Prepare diligently for eternity.

(I found this article on my computer and it seemed to fit with some of our recent studies in Bible class. I do not know who wrote this article but its message is needed.

No matter who put the thoughts together the message is certainly valid for us. Many of the letters from Paul deal with this idea of individual responsibility. This article uses Paul's words to the Roman brethren. We have seen it in the letters to the Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians. It continues to show up in the letters that are ahead of us in our Wednesday evening class. This emphasis draws focus to the importance of individual action in the work of the Church.

God did not design His family with a small group given all the responsibility of taking care of business. His Church is described as a body because of the importance of each and every part to the whole. There are no unimportant or unnecessary Christians. God has given work for each member to do.

As the article asks, "Am I fulfilling my responsibilities to God and my brethren?" I might add, "Are there things that need to be done that I am able to do?" Checking on sick, encouraging the weak, and attending services are things anyone can do. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!