Plugging up Some Holes
Haggai 1:6

Introduction:
A. Haggai describes Israel’s lack of prosperity and its reasons. (vv. 3-6)
B. Haggai says they were putting their earnings into a bag with holes.
C. Church in recent years much like putting money into bag with holes.
   1. Some churches “growing”, but often because members shifting around.
   2. Baptizing some, but still losing ground in many places — need to baptize more.
   3. Baptizing more is not only solution — need to plug up some holes.
D. We offer some suggestions to plug up some holes:

Discussion:
   A. Compelled to speak (Acts 4:20)
   B. Complete involvement (Acts 8:4).
   C. People not likely to drop out while fervently trying to reach others.
   A. Designed to shame one into repentance (2 Thess. 3:14,15)
   B. Purpose to preserve a soul. (1 Cor. 5:4,5)
   C. Too many allowed to drift away without disciplinary action.
III. Ground Brethren in the Faith (Col. 1:23; Acts 16:5).
   A. Grounded in basic doctrine of Christ (cf. Eph. 4:11-14)
   B. Grounded in vital differences (Cf. Ezek. 22:26; 44:23)
      1. Difference in preachers and teachers.
      2. Difference in churches.
      3. Difference in life-styles.
   C. Grounded against the glitter false ways. (Cf. 2 Pet. 2:18-19).
      1. Glitter of worldliness.
      2. Glitter of denominationalism.
      3. Glitter of “false brethren.”
   D. Grounded in basic reasons for doing things.
      1. To serve or to be served. (Matt. 20:28).
      2. Spiritual, material or social considerations first.
IV. Raise Our Expectations of Brethren (Heb. 6:9).
   A. Let each know that we believe he can and must:
      1. Be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).
      2. Do his share (Eph. 4:16).
   B. Lose people because feel little is expected of them.
V. Develop Stronger Families (1 Tim. 3:4,5,12).
   A. Families with strong ties to the Lord and each other.
   B. Families involved, as families, in the Lord’s work.
      1. Attend all services together.
      2. Christ-centered home activities.

Conclusion:
A. We need to bring in the sheaves — also need to guard the barn.
B. We need to convert all we can — also need to plug up some holes.