

Perhaps in the matter of the Lord's cause we take the same stand. We say, 'Wait until the times get better, until good wages and fair prices prevail, and until money flows more freely;' and we think our plea for delay and inactivity is strong. But what were God's instructions to the people of Haggai's time? Here they are :—"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain and bring wood, and build the house, and I will take pleasure in it." It was not, 'Wait for another year until you have more wheat and oil and wine, and money and raiment? No; but, 'Go, . . . bring wood and build the house.' And for their encouragement He added : "From this day"—in which you interest yourselves in my cause, and go to work—"I will bless you."

These words have their application now. God has His cause in the world still. He is as jealous of it now as then. Too often it is allowed to lie waste as it were—neglected. Too many run to their own houses—attend to their own particular interests, and overlook the Lord's cause. They excuse themselves on many grounds. The "time" is not opportune for them, their wages are small, their wants are not supplied, or the times are dull. Do we ever think that we are the cause of bad times and failing crops and scarcity of money? Do we think and believe that if we would go and build, the Lord would bless us?

There is a temple now in course of erection. It is grander than that of Haggai's time, grander than Solomon's. God is deeply interested therein. It is the spiritual temple, the true church. The lively stones of which it is to be built are to be quarried out of the mass of sin-degraded and sin-ruined humanity. That material is to be brought into living contact with the living and loving Saviour, who loved the Church and gave Himself for it. That implies interest in the temple, prayer, labor and it may be money—everything necessary to carry on the work of erection amid difficulty and opposition. What interest have you in this build-