

LET US CONSIDER OUR WAYS (Haggai 1:1-7)

After 70 years of captivity in Babylon the remnant of Israel were allowed back to their own country and city of Jerusalem. The city was in ruins and the Temple needed to be rebuilt. They started off on fire for God and got the area prepared to build the Temple by building the alter. They had a celebration and started living life to the fullest. However, soon after the alter was built they quit building and grew apathetic and complacent with their freedom and for sixteen years they concentrated on building personal wealth and happiness and forgot about the Temple of God. It was then that God sent Haggai.

CONSIDER OUR OBEDIENCE

Haggai 1:2-5 The Temple was where the people of God met with God. Any worship, and sacrifices were to be made in the Temple. The people had become more focused on personal wealth and personal relationships with each other more than their relationship with God. Their priorities were all wrong.

Hebrews 10:25 God tells us that to obey is better than sacrifice. We are commanded to assemble together for worship, for prayer, and for sacrifice and fellowship, that we can grow in the Lord together.

Luke 6:38 Jesus tells us to be generous in our giving and He will guarantee that we will be rewarded.

II Corinthians 6:17 Paul warns us to be separate from the world so that our light can shine and we can be seen as different from the world, separated for God's work and ministry.

II Timothy 2:15 How can we be obedient if we are not reading and studying God's Word so that we might know and obey what God demands from us?

CONSIDER OUR FOCUS

Haggai 1:6-8 This particular time for Israel was the first of the new month in the second half of the year, this was a time for reflection and looking back over the past and assess their lifestyle and to consider things done right or wrong. They had worked hard in the fields, worked hard to provide for their families and to make money for their future. When they reflected they were found wanting.

Matthew 6:31-33 So many of us spend the majority of our time working like beavers most of our life trying to do better, make money and move our family and future forward but come up short. Why? The reason is that we do not put God and His work first and trust Him to take care of us and our family.

I Corinthians 6:20 We are reminded several times that we are not our own, but we are 'bought with a price'. Our focus for living is to honor and glorify God in our attitude and lifestyle.

I Corinthians 10:31 Not only while working but in everything, eating, drinking or whatever we do, our duty and our focus is to give Him glory.

CONSIDER OUR RELATIONSHIP

Haggai 1:8-11 God did not hide His will from His people. They knew what He wanted them to do and because they had neglected Him they had paid the high price of disobedience.

Isaiah 1:18-20 As their heavenly Father, God pleads with His people to have the right relationship with Him. A blessing for obedience and heartache will come with disobedience.

Haggai 1:12-14 Finally the leaders and the people decide to obey God and build the Temple. Then God put a good spirit within them to do the work.

II Corinthians 6:17-18 Our relationship to God our Father is dependent on our obedience.

Hebrews 12:5-7 God's desire is to continue to bless His children as we consider our ways.

