

Consider Your Ways

Haggai 1:5-7

Introduction:

- A. Haggai's message: Get on with rebuilding the temple.
 - 1. Had been sixteen years since return from Babylonian captivity.
 - 2. Had returned with blessings and financial backing of Persia.
 - 3. Foundation had been laid then work stopped. (Ez. 3:8; 4:24).
 - 4. Jehovah calls Haggai and Zechariah to urge completion of task they had returned to do.
- B. Haggai calls on Israel to "consider your **ways**" - specifically He is saying to them:

Discussion:

I. Consider Your *Procrastination*. (1:2)

- A. Sixteen years and the time had not come?
 - 1. The planning stage had been completed.
 - 2. The financing had been secured.
 - 3. The foundation had been laid.
 - 4. Now, it was time to get on with it!
- B. Prudent preparation, planning and pondering often appropriate - but action must come.
 - 1. In obeying the gospel. (cf. Acts 17:32; 24:25)
 - 2. In taking stand for truth. (1 Kg. 18:21; 2 Tim. 3:7).
 - 3. In preparing for death and judgement. (Matt. 25:1-13).
- C. Procrastinators are great rationalizers.
 - 1. "The time is not right".
 - 2. "A lion in the streets". (Prov. 22:13; 26:13).

II. Consider Your *Priorities*. (1:4)

- A. Had ceiled (paneled) house, but Lord's house lay in ruins.
- B. How often do we put our business ahead of Lord's business? (cf. Matt. 6:33).
 - 1. Members with luxury homes, cars, etc. while church not "self-supporting".
 - 2. Members with time to do most anything they want, with no time for Lord's work.
 - 3. Members will equip themselves for work and pleasure, but not for kingdom service.
 - a. Attend classes, lectures, etc.
 - b. Read books and publications for help.
 - c. Buy, borrow, rent equipment needed to best results.

III. Consider Your *Punishment*. (1:6-11; 2:15-19).

- A. Not allowed to prosper to fullest.
- B. How often might we do without for not putting kingdom first? (Mt. 6:33).
- C. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? (Heb 3:1-4).

IV. Consider Your *Penitence*. (1:12-15)

- A. They now obeyed voice of God. (v. 12).
 - 1. The leadership obeyed. (v. 14)
 - 2. The remnant of the people that returned. (v. 14) Note: Only a remnant was promised to return and only a remnant did. (cf. Isa. 10:21; Jer. 23:3)
- B. They now have Lord with them. (v. 13).

V. Consider Your *Pollution*. (2:11-14)

- A. While they had repented of neglecting the temple, more correction needed.
- B. They were still polluted in their lives.
 - 1. May be zealous for "God's house", still polluted in lives.
 - 2. May be "religiously" correct and active, but morally unclean.
 - 3. Uncleaness of life affected all else they did. (v. 14).

Conclusion:

- A. As we build up the house of God, let us consider our ways.
 - 1. Consider our responsibilities.
 - 2. Consider the effect the such things mentioned in by Haggai have on us.
- B. As we consider our ways, consider of standing with God at this moment.