

Consider Your Ways
Part 1: Disordered Priorities
Haggai 1

No love of the natural heart is safe unless the human heart has been satisfied by God first.

-Oswald Chambers

I. The Prophet

II. The Problem

Into the Bible

1. In the Old Testament, based on God's covenant with Israel, His blessings were conditional on their obedience to the Law—obey and be blessed, disobey and get punished. Now we are free from the Law, but does God still withhold His blessings when we are disobedient? Does He continue to reward us because of our obedience? (James 4:2-3, Hebrews 11:39-40, Matthew 25:14-28)

Application

2. Haggai prophesies against the Jews who had returned from exile because they were more concerned with getting their own houses in order than getting God's house in order. In 1 Peter 2:4-5 the apostle calls us "living stones" being built "into a spiritual house" where spiritual sacrifices can be offered—in essence the new temple of God. How does our sanctification make us worthy of being the temple of God? (1 Peter 1:13-16, Romans 12:1-2)

3. The way we set our priorities in the Christian life is not just about choosing good over bad, it also requires deciding for better over good. Jesus' teaching about the priorities in the Kingdom of God shocked the Jews of his day. How should those teachings challenge us in setting our priorities? (Matthew 6:19-21, Matthew 10:37-39)

For Families

4. Talk with your children about what we make most important in our lives.