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).
   C. Procrastinators are great rationalizers.
      1. "The time is not right".

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.

   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 remanent of the people that returned. (v. 14) Note: Only a remanent was promised to return and only a remanent 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. Uncleanness 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.