

# “Give Careful Thought To Your Ways”

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## **Introduction**

*Haggai 1:1-15, 2:18-19*

- Sometimes life does not turn out the way we want. Disappointments, failures, missed opportunities, discouragements.

Q. What dreams/visions/plans/goals did you have when you were baptized?

Q. What is going on in your life now that isn't what you want it to be?

- Let's look at these passages and see what it teaches us.  
- Pray

## **1. Give Careful Thought to Your Ways**

Q. What was God challenging them about in vs. 2-11?

- They weren't putting him first; they were self-absorbed.

Q. Was their self-serving ways producing what they wanted? Why not?

- God was frustrating them; trying to produce repentance.

Q. How deeply do you think about the consequences of your actions?

- Lust, laziness, cowardice, selfishness, worldliness, anger, mediocrity  
- We must be 'deeper' in our thinking and spirituality  
- Our relationships, joy, and eternity depend on it

## **2. Obedience, Repentance, and the Fear of the Lord**

Q. Finally, in v. 12, how did the people respond?

- Obedience produced from a fear of the Lord

Q. What does it mean to fear the Lord?

- Respect but also fear of punishment/wrath

Q. How much do you fear the Lord? How much does it affect your life?

- We, by nature, don't think that anything 'bad' will happen (Zeph. 1:12-13)  
- Obedience will produce fruit in our lives

## **3. God's Timing and His Blessing**

Q. What did God do for them in vs. 13-14

- He was 'with them' and stirred the spirit inside of them.

Q. When we repent, what do we want/expect to see?

- We want to be immediately blessed by God according to what we want  
- Look at vs. 2:18-19

Q. Did God "bless" them immediately? 2 Peter 3:8-9

- Not as they might have understood 'blessing'  
- The blessing was repentance, walking w/ God  
- Later on came the blessing that they wanted/expected.

**Close**

- We must give more careful thought to our ways. God wants to bless us, he wants to pour out his favor on us, but as any father does, he has expectations of us.
- Pray