

First Things First
Introduction to the Book of Haggai
Overview of Haggai & Ezra

- I. The Importance of Priorities and Order
 - [*Software Coding & Farming*]
 - "We too have been delivered from captivity, and every one of us who had been brought to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus as personal Savior has come out of a captivity that was even greater than that Babylonian captivity. We have come out of a lost state, and the time to do the will of God is always now." (S. Lewis Johnson)
 - Purpose: Glorify God; Mission: GMD²
- II. Background
 - A. Historical
 - Babylonian Captivity: 2 Chronicles 36:5ff; cf Jeremiah 22:1-5 - 605, 587/86 BC
 - Persian Release/Cyrus: Ezra 1ff
 - Temple Reconstruction Resumption/Darius: Ezra 5ff; Haggai 1ff
 - B. National
 - Cycle of waywardness/disobedience and return/obedience, yet still preservation of remnant
 - C. Spiritual
 - Haggai=first prophet post-exile; First Things First
 - God-centric messages
 - Four speeches, focused on orientation to God's ways/plans
- III. Key Themes
 - God is supreme
 - Worshipping Him is central
 - Obeying Him is priority
 - His perspective is what matters
 - Our purity is crucial
 - God will accomplish His purposes
- IV. Applications
 - Consider your ways
 - Pray
 - Ask

GMD²

Consider your ways.

The command is short and simple on one level. Just three words. Not hard to understand. Definitive. On another level, though, it is long and involved. Biblical definitions of words can go deep and unpack layers of important meaning. Take a look at the definitions of the three words of the command:

Consider - to set one's inner person/mind/will/heart/soul/understanding on something

Your - personally yours...not anyone else's

Ways - road/distance/journey/manner/direction/habit/course of life/moral character

So.....

Consider your ways. Pray about the condition and direction of your heart. (See sobering realities about your heart at Mark 7:20-23; Jeremiah 17:9-10; 1 Samuel 16:7). God is the only "spiritual heart surgeon" there is. Turn to Him. Ask Him to do His work.