

## Clarity About Our Priorities

Haggai

Dr. Larry Lamb

January 21, 2024

### Some Of God's Priorities

- Courageous living is a priority. (Joshua 1.6-9)
- Avoiding sin at all costs is a priority. (Judges 13-16)
- Learning to listen to God is a priority. (1 Samuel 3)
- Obedience over sacrifice is a priority. (1 Samuel 15.22)
- Living in the awe of God is a priority. (Proverbs 1.7; Isaiah 6)
- Trusting God is a priority. (Proverbs 3.5,6)
- Make generosity toward eternal endeavors a priority. (Matthew 6.21)
- Godly living is a priority. (Matthew 20.25-28)
- Sexual purity is a priority. (1 Corinthians 6.9-11)

### Truths about Priorities

1. Evaluating priorities is wise.
2. Regardless of life's seasons, God's priorities can stand against the test of time.
3. Others can speak to and strengthen our priorities.

*"God puts the call to repentance in the language everyone can understand – the language of pain and death." John Piper*

### **1) The consequences of ignoring God's priorities.**

**Haggai 1.2-6** *This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.' 3 Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: 4 "Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? 5 This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! 6 You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!*

## 2) The results of obedience.

**Haggai 1.12-14** *Then Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the whole remnant of God's people began to obey the message from the Lord their God. When they heard the words of the prophet Haggai, whom the Lord their God had sent, the people feared the Lord. 13 Then Haggai, the Lord's messenger, gave the people this message from the Lord: "I am with you, says the Lord!" 14 So the Lord sparked enthusiasm...*

- When God speaks a message to us through His messenger, there is only one response: OBEDIENCE.
- Building anything for God is never easy.

## 3) The Confirmation of God's Presence

**Haggai 2.4,5** *But now the Lord says: Be strong, Zerubbabel. Be strong, Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people still left in the land. And now get to work, for I am with you, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. 5 My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised when you came out of Egypt. So do not be afraid.'*

### Now What?

- 1) Is there any priority of God for me that I am disregarding, fearful of, rationalizing away, or have said, "No?"

*"The great point of Abraham's faith in God was that he was prepared to do anything for God." Oswald Chambers*

- 2) Spiritual success isn't as far away as you might think.

- We will have to reprioritize our priorities throughout our lives.
- We need a cause from God to stretch our faith.
- We need others to show us a bigger picture.

### PRAYER OF SALVATION

Lord, I admit I am a sinner. I need and want Your forgiveness. I accept Your death as the penalty for my sin and recognize that Your mercy and grace are gifts. You offer me free grace because of Your great love, not based on anything I have done. Cleanse me and make me Your child. Amen.