

A WORD ON WORSHIP

Review of Message from January 1, 2017

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Haggai 1:7-9

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains, bring wood and rebuild the temple, that I may be pleased with it and be glorified, says the Lord. You look for much, but behold, it comes to little; when you bring it home, I blow it away. Why? declares the Lord of hosts, because of My house which lies desolate, while each of you runs to his own house.”



Every day you exchange a day of your life for something. It's as if at the start of life each of us were issued a certain number of coins. They're hidden inside a large machine so that we don't know how many we were issued or how many we have left. Each day, the machine issues us a new coin. It may be the last coin we get, or we may get many more. All we know is that the average person in America gets between 70 and 80 years' worth, but some get far less; a few may get more.

You take each day's coin and exchange it for something: a day at work or school, shopping, church, leisure, or whatever. Once spent, you can never get the coins back to spend them differently. The art of living wisely is largely a matter of spending your coins on the things that really matter in light of eternity and not frivolously wasting them. Living wisely is difficult because often the choice is not between the bad and the good, but between the good and the best.

Meanwhile, life continues to move forward. You started a career and a family. You had bills to pay and other demands on your time. Church and the Lord's work drifted into the background. You still attend church as often as you can, but it has become a slice of life, not the center. You tell yourself that you just don't have time to serve as you used to. Without deliberately rebelling against God, you have drifted into putting your house above God's house. When your conscience nags, you have reasons to explain why things are this way.

Twice in Haggai 1 the Lord tells the people, "Consider your ways". That means to stop long enough in your busy schedule to evaluate your life in the light of God's Word and fearing Him. How are you spending your time? These people had plenty of time for themselves, but they didn't have time for God. How are you spending your money, which is really God's money? These folks claimed that they had to get their own houses built first, and then they could build God's house. But that was backwards. What are your goals? What is it that you're aiming at in life? If you live to an old age, what do you want to look back on as far as accomplishments? If God seems distant in your life, perhaps your priorities have gotten mixed up. When you put God truly in first place, you experience a new awareness of His presence. That is true blessing.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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