



Week Eight: “Changing Priorities. Creating Margin. – Part II”

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For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. – Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

- **We are operating on _____**

Overload comes when we have too much activity in our lives, too much change, too many choices, too much work, too much debt, too much media exposure. We’re stressed by information overload. We’re stressed by accessibility overload -- we’re connected all the time. – Rick Warren

I. **We don’t have enough left over for God**

- We want to do the right thing, but we can’t
- It isn’t that we lack time, talent, energy, or passion
- It is that we lack _____

“Margin is the amount of time allowed beyond what is needed. It is something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations. Margin is the gap between rest and exhaustion, the space between breathing freely and suffocating. It is the leeway we once had between ourselves and our limits.” – Dr. Richard Swenson, Margin

- Go back to Haggai 1
 - These people were busy _____ – Vs 4
 - They were busy _____ – Vs 6
 - They were busy _____ and _____ – Vs 6
 - They were busy _____ themselves – Vs 6
 - They were busy making _____ – Vs 6
- Like them, we have filled up every area of our lives to the _____
- There is no room for God or for His “good works”

- A. _____ margin
- Without it we crash and burn
 - We run our tank on empty
 - We have nothing left to give God or others

- B. _____ margin
- We are overspent
 - We are maxed out
 - We live in survival mode

- We have no excess to share with God or others
- C. _____ margin
 - We are out of shape
 - We lack energy and motivation
 - We are physically drained from just daily existence
 - We have nothing left to give God or others
- D. _____ margin
 - We are overcommitted
 - Our lives are filled with religious activity
 - But we have no time to listen to God

Spiritual margin exists when your heart is so filled with God that it overflows into the lives of others. – Lloyd Reeb, From Success to Significance

II. Making room for God makes things _____ (Haggai 1:12-15)

- A. The people decided to _____ the voice of God
- B. The people showed _____ for God
...and the people began to respect the Lord. – Vs 12 (NET)
- C. Obedience brings God's _____
"I am with you," declares the LORD. – Vs 13
- D. Doing God's work brings God's _____
"So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel...and the spirit of Joshua... and the spirit of all the remnant of the people" – Vs 14
 - God gave them the _____
 - God gave them the _____
- E. They people found _____ to do God's work
"...they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God." – Vs 14
 - They threw off the idol of _____

III. The before and after

- Look at Haggai 2:15-17
 - As long as they delayed God's work: _____
- Now look at Haggai 2:18-19
 - Once they resumed God's work: _____
- You'll never hear *from* Him is you never listen *to* Him
- You won't ever do His good works if you fill every second with your own
- Putting your priorities over God's will never bring true satisfaction
- Ignoring God will not make Him go away
- He has called you
- He has equipped you
- He has a job planned for you
- He has blessing in store for you

CONSIDER YOUR WAYS!

ANSWER KEY: overload, left over, margin, building houses, sowing crops, eating, drinking, clothing, money, limit, emotional, financial, physical, spiritual, happen, obey, reverence, presence, power, motivation, energy, margin, busyness, cursing, blessing