

Alex Schneider

Consider your ways

Haggai 1:5; 1 Corinthians 3:12–15

Recently I have often asked myself what my real goal in life is – not according to what I say, but according to what I invest time, energy, money and thought in (cf. 1 John 3:18). Are they eternal things that will last for 1,000,000 years?

More specifically: What will still count at all? Now it gets radical. Then it won't matter – and what follows are not evil things per se – how successful our favorite sports team is, where the best beach vacation is, which movie you have to see, which car is the fastest, which shoes are the most beautiful, how many likes our profile photo has, which university certificate hangs on our wall, what the share price is, how many handbags we have collected, how beautifully our garden grows, what weight the scales show, how best to marinate beef fillet or how full your bank account is.

Then the only thing that counts is this: What was for the Lord and what was not? Please read Matthew 6:19–21 and 1 Corinthians 3:12–15. Discipleship is more radical than I often realize. This is how devotedly the Lord lived on earth, this is how the apostles lived, this is how many believers lived who made great sacrifices. Someone once said: 'If a house is on fire and you know that there are people in it, it is a sin to save the paintings from that house. When the world around you is in great danger, things that make perfect sense can be completely wrong!'

At the same time, we don't want to live for the Lord because we just have to, but because we love Him, don't we? He has done so much for us, that we want to lay down our lives out of love for Him. When the prophet Haggai addressed the sore

point of the people who preferred to build their own houses instead of the house of God, he said, *'Consider your ways'* (Haggai 1:5). In other words: Pause and think – where am I in my life? The Lord is truly worthy of being the top priority. Every believer will agree with this.

