

Ezra Set His Heart

Ezra 7:6-11

Who was Ezra?

- Zerubbabel focused on the physical and was instrumental in (re)building the temple.
- Ezra focused on the spiritual and the reestablishment of the priesthood and the rebuilding of the people.

Who was Ezra?

- A priest of the lineage of Aaron. Ezra 7:1-5
- A priest who took his job seriously. Ezra 7:6
- "... skilled in the law of Moses ..." – while in captivity ... 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 18:24-26; Malachi 2:1-7
- A servant who recognized God's providence and blessings. Ezra 8:21-22
- A student who understood God's dealings with His people – recognized to be the author of 1st and 2nd Chronicles.

Who was Ezra?

His life summarized in Ezra 7:10

"For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord , and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel."

Ezra's Heart Was Set

- "Set" – Ready and certain. "Fixity and stability of purpose."
- Speaks of:
 - Focus
 - Consistency
- The one necessary thing. Luke 10:41-42
- Weeds have been pulled. Mark 4:19
- Not tossed to and fro. Ephesians 4:14

Ezra's Heart Was Set

- David as an example ... Psalms 57:7; 112:6-7; 1 Chronicles 22:18-19
- Make choice: Joshua 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21 – set your course ... no longer flexible on your mission ... firm state of resolve

To Study The Law Of The Lord

- Study – Hebrew word means to seek, inquire or investigate.
- It takes work – 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalms 119:97
- Who will we inquire of? 2 Kings 1:2-3; 1 Kings 22:5; Acts 17:11
- Don't let Satan take away your key of knowledge. Luke 11:52
- Ignorance kills – Hosea 4:6
- Will we ever cry out, "Teach me!"? Psalms 143:8-10; 25:4-5; 143:10

To Study The Law Of The Lord

- There are/is:
 - Facts to be learned. Luke 1:1-4
 - Contexts to be understood. Galatians chapter 6.
 - Authority to be respected. Acts 20:7; Matthew 21:23-27; Colossians 2:10
 - Faith to be established. Romans 10:17

To Practice The Law Of The Lord

- Not enough to just know ... Matthew 7:24-27
- There are:
 - Actions to take. James 4:7-10
 - Deeds to be done. Titus 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14
 - Service to be rendered. John 13:5ff; Galatians 5:13

To Practice The Law Of The Lord

- There are/is:
 - Denial to be exercised. Matthew 16:24-27; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:11-12; Galatians 5:17
 - Thoughts to be had. Philippians 4:8
 - Words to be uttered. Proverbs 25:11; Colossians 4:6
 - It's personal! Luke 10:29-37; Matthew 25:31ff; James 1:21-22.

To Teach His Statutes & Ordinances

- Christians are to be teachers. 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 5:12; Ephesians 4:11-16
- There are/is:
 - Patterns to be taught and standards to be proclaimed. 2 Timothy 1:13; Hebrews 8:5
 - Error to be refuted. Titus 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:25
 - False teaching to be responded to. 1 Timothy 1:3; Galatians 2:5
 - Sound doctrine to be proclaimed. 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 4:1-2