

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1232

September 9, 2018

Ezra 7:10, “*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do [it], and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.*”

We spend much time preparing. As a school year nears, we prepare by buying new clothing and shoes. We might even prepare for classes by studying the subjects on our own before the actual classes begin. Athletes prepare by having regular practices and training sessions. We spend much time preparing for guests by making sure the house is clean, all is in order, and we have food for them.

We spend so much time preparing, but it is most important to do what Ezra did. We need to prepare our hearts to seek the law of the LORD. The word of God is available to everyone, but most of the world do not have their hearts prepared to accept it. We are exposed to the Bible every service, but are our hearts prepared for the word of God?

If we are listening to the Bible being read and taught, but yet our minds are elsewhere, our hearts are not prepared. It’s always been easy to be distracted when listening to lessons, but it’s even more so today with everyone having a cell phone. We feel a buzz in our

pocket or on our wrist, we naturally want to see what it is. During that time, our minds are not focused on the lesson. Our hearts are not prepared.

Our minds can be thinking about what we plan to do in the upcoming week. We can be thinking about any number of things except the lesson being taught. Our hearts cannot be prepared to seek the law of the LORD during this time.

It’s not just during lessons that we are failing to prepare our hearts to seek the Word of God. Throughout the week we spend so much time with work, school, and recreational activities, that we spend little time preparing for the lessons that are scheduled. We spend little to no time reading the Bible in general. When we do this, we cannot prepare our hearts to seek the law of the LORD.

How can we prepare our hearts to seek the law of the LORD and then what follows? We prepare our hearts by making room and time for Bible study. If we have become too busy to regularly study, then we need to remove something from our lives. We also prepare our hearts by studying the lessons that are coming up and reviewing the lessons we’ve already had. We also prepare our hearts by praying and asking the LORD to help us understand and retain the lessons we learn from His word.

It’s not enough to simply seek the word of God. We need to do it. After Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, the Bible says “to do it.” He was not just preparing his heart to seek, but to do. We need to obey the teachings contained within the Bible.

One can have a very detailed knowledge of the word of God, but yet fail to do it. How terrible it is, to know what the LORD wants us to do, and then simply refuse to obey. But, when we have sought the word of God and are doing it, then the third step follows.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

News

—Continue to remember **Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Shirley Parson, Erin Davis, Leon Seaton, and Frances Kidd.**

—**Ruby Edwards** will be leading an on-line ladies Bible class this Fall. It will be conducted by using Facebook Messenger. With Facebook Messenger, there can be up to 50 people in a conference call and all can participate. It will be audio only, and no video.

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We are told after Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD and do it, he would teach these things. After we are seeking the word of God and doing it, we need to teach others.

All about us are lost people. Perhaps people within our own families. Those who will hear us, we need to teach. There are those though who have no interest in hearing the word of God. The best we can do to teach these people is to live lives for the LORD that serve as an example to them.

Peter wrote in I Peter 3:1, “*Likewise, ye wives, [be] in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives.*” The wives have the opportunity to win their husbands over to the LORD not by speaking words, but by the lives they live. The word “conversation” in the King James Version of the Bible means manner of life or conduct.

Note that Ezra was teaching statues and judgments in Israel. Even though we do teach the world, much of our teaching is among ourselves. During our Bible classes we all contribute and discuss and teach each other many good truths contained with in the word of God.

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Sunday, September 2, 2018		
Classes	19	Hebrews 3:1-6
Preaching	29	II Peter 1:1-10
Contribution	\$815.00	
Evening	13	Singing (Psalm 122:1-9)
Wednesday, September 5, 2018		
Classes	20	I Chronicles 9:1-44

Visitors—
 Sep 2 (AM) Avery, Audrey, & Tucker Franklin (Lexington, KY)
 Sep 2 (PM) Avery, Audrey, & Tucker Franklin (Lexington, KY)
 Sep 5 (Wed) Charlotte Melloan (Horse Cave, KY)

Bible Quiz

Last Week’s Answer— From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same (Malachi 1:11)

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If our hearts are not prepared, we cannot learn and receive the word of God, and certainly will not be able to teach others. We spend so much of our time preparing for other things, let’s first and foremost prepare our hearts to see, do, and teach the law of the LORD.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)