

P.M. OUTLINE
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EZRA'S FORMULA FOR RIGHT LIVING

INTRODUCTION

The O.T. stories have a message for us today: (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11)

Ezra provides for us an example, a lesson, and an admonition: (Ezra 7:10) "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances to Israel"

1. "FOR EZRA HAD PREPARED HIS HEART"

"Prepare" - to make ready in advance; to fix or set; before-hand.

"Heart" - the seat of moral nature and spiritual life; emotions, reasoning, and will.

Involves: (Deut. 6:5; Proverbs 4:23 and 23:7; Psalm 24:3-4)

Hymn #671 Purer In Heart, O God

2. "TO SEEK THE LAW OF THE LORD"

"Seek" - inquire; search; delve or dig into; investigate; to yearn for.

"The Law of the Lord" - God's statutes and ordinances.

Why is this the right thing to do?

(Psalm 1:1-2; Psalm 19:7; Psalm 119:11, v105, v140, v165; Isaiah 34:16)

Hymn #443 The Precious Book Divine

3. "TO DO IT"

"Do" - obey; perform; act; produce; work; capable of being done.

Hymn #915 Trust and Obey

4. "AND TEACH STATUTES AND ORDINANCES"

"Teach" - instruct; educate; enlighten; tutor; cause to acquire knowledge.

Statutes and ordinances" - the rule of conduct or action giving by a governing authority.

(Nehemiah 8:1-3, v8, v12)

(Matthew 7:24-29; Revelation 1:3; James 1:22)