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EZRA'S FORMULA FOR RIGHT LIVING

(Ezra 7:6 – 10)

INTRODUCTION

Old Testament stories have a message for us today: **(Romans 15:4)** "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

(1 Corinthians 10:11) "... and they were written for our admonition ... "

Ezra, at the end of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, returns to Jerusalem with others to rebuild the walls and the temple, and to restore the spiritual life of the people.

Ezra's example for us: **(v10)** "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel."

1. "FOR EZRA HAD PREPARED HIS HEART"

"Prepare" - to make ready in advance; a state of mental and physical fitness; in the mood.

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

(Deuteronomy 6:5; Proverbs 4:23 and 23:7; Psalm 24:3-4)

2. "TO SEEK THE LAW OF THE LORD"

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

The law of the Lord" - God's statutes and ordinances; the Bible message; God's word.

Why is this the right thing to do?

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

3. "AND TO DO IT"

"Do it" - obey; act; produce; accomplish; carry through to completion.

(James 1:21-22) "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

4. "AND TO TEACH STATUTES AND ORDINANCES IN ISRAEL"

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

"Statutes and ordinances" - the rule of conduct given by a governing authority.

Meaning, preach and teach the word of God.

(Nehemiah 8:1-3, v8, v12; Matthew 7:24; Revelation 1:3; Matthew 28:18-20)

CLOSE - Ezra has given us a pattern for successful Christian living.