

Today's Sermon Subjects ~ Speaker: Tim Canup

AM "Common Sense Religion" (Isaiah 1:18-20).

PM "Study of Leadership."

Those Privileged To Serve:

Announcements: Matthew Winters
 AM Song Leader: Mark Miller
 AM Prayer: Jim Miller
 Lord's Supper: Tim Winters; Willard Ellison;
 David Turnmire
 PM Song Leader: Tim Winters
 PM Prayer: Matthew Winters
 Lord's Supper: Tim Winters
 Wed Song Leader: Bill Powers
 Wed Invitation: Matthew Winters

Records For Last Week:

Contribution: 953.64
 Weekly Bible Readers: 3
 Sunday Bible Study: 25
 AM Worship: 36
 PM Worship: 16
 Wednesday Bible Study 23

Building Cleaning For April 12:

Leroy Kennell Family

Prepare Communion For April:

Ruth Bare

Our Study of the Book of Revelation On Sunday Evenings Will Begin Soon!

Invite Your Friends & Family to Join Us For This Exciting Study!

HE THOUGHT NOTHING OF MONEY!

V.P. Black, deceased

- He paid \$90,000 for a house to occupy a few years. He thought nothing of money.
- He paid \$20,000 for a car. He thought nothing of money.
- He paid \$7,000 for a pleasure boat. He thought nothing of money.
- He paid \$3,000 for a country club membership. He thought nothing of money.
- He paid \$2,000 for a vacation of two weeks. He thought nothing of money.
- He spent \$500 on a hunting and fishing trip. He thought nothing of money.
- He spent \$1,500 for Christmas gifts. He thought nothing of money.
- He gave \$10 a week - every Lord's Day! **Did he think nothing of money?!**

The New Testament is a book on giving. There are more passages dealing with a proper attitude toward stewardship, material goods, and giving, than all other obligations of the Christian life. Repeatedly in the New Testament, giving is called a "grace" (2 Corinthians 8:4,7,9). When we know that giving is a *grace*, a Christian *virtue*, without which no man can be saved, the Lord's people will give enough to preach the gospel to the lost and to build up the saved.



Back To The Bible!

Published Weekly by the West Jefferson Church of Christ

Volume II

April 5, 2009

Issue # 14

221 Barnett Street
 West Jefferson, NC 28694
 Phone: (336) 246-5615
www.wjchurchofchrist.org

Minister:

Tim Canup: 846-5616
 E-mail: info@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:.....10:00am
 AM Worship:.....11:00am
 PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....9:35am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS

12th Annual Lectureship
 "God's Plan for Salvation"
 September 25-27, 2009

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our Visitors!**

COULD THIS CONGREGATION USE AN EZRA?

By Roger Campbell

Ezra was both a priest of God and a scribe (Ezra 7:11). He is described as "a ready [skilled, NKJV] scribe in the Law of Moses" (Ezra 7:6). In about B.C. 458/457, Ezra led a group of some 1500 Jews from the region of Babylon, where the Jewish people had been in exile for 70 years, back to the land of Judah.

Ezra was a genuine leader. God saw that, Ezra's fellow Jews saw that, and so did King Artaxerxes, the king of the Medo-Persian Empire. There is one particular Bible verse that gives us a clear insight into the type of person that Ezra was. That verse is Ezra 7:10, where it is written, "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." There are four points that "jump out" at us in this text.

(1) Ezra had prepared his heart. What kind of person would Ezra be? That all depended on his heart/mind. The Master said, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil . . ." (Luke 6:45). It all goes back to the heart – we see that truth presented in a unique way in Jesus' Parable of the Sower. It is the one with an honest and good heart that continues to bear fruit to the glory of the Lord (Luke 8:15). (Continued Inside).

A Warm and Cordial Welcome To All Our Visitors!

Those Needing Our Prayers:

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16).

Tom & Della Jones	Mary Jones – Surgery	Cindy Canup
Leroy Kennell	Steven Winters	Linda Miller
Tosha Miller	Eugene & Lucille Kidder	Mark Miller
Jim Winters	Amanda Winters	Savannah Bedenbaugh
Barbara Isley	Sandra Isley	Trish West
Kevin Greer	Cameron Turnmire	Edgar & Dorothy Wilcox & Fam.
Matkins Family	Lib Wyrick	Baby Stephen – Open Heart Surg.
Don Tate	Steve Miller	Michael Ellison & Family – Travel
Ralph Ham	Bill Dancy	David Boone
Bertha Lou Boone	Larry & Wanda Pless	

Our Shut-Ins:

Mary Turner – Margate Health & Rehab; Room #212; 540 Waugh Street., WJ, NC 28694

Our Weekly Bible Questions Will Return Soon!

Calendar of Events:

- April 5 – Men’s Meeting & Ladies’ Class – immediately following evening services.
- April 12 – Singing @ Margate – 6:30-7:30 pm.
- April 18 – Ladies’ Day @ South Stokes Church of Christ – Laura Bentley – 8:30-12:30
- April 25 – Youth Rally @ Charlotte Avenue
- May 9 – Senior Rally @ Warners Chapel – Beings at 8:00 am.
- May 17-21 – Our Gospel Meeting W/ Jimmy Canup – 7:00 pm Monday-Thursday.

Could This Congregation... ~ Continued

It was Ezra’s responsibility to prepare his own heart. There may have been others who taught Ezra, encouraged him, and set a good example for him. All of those are extremely helpful to any person that has a desire to serve and please Jehovah. But, even when one receives such a positive influence, in the end it is each person that must prepare his/her own heart to do what is right. God’s instruction for each of us is, “*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*” (Proverbs 4:23).

(2) Ezra had prepared his heart to **SEEK** the law of the LORD. Here the word “seek” does not mean that he was trying to *locate* God’s law, but rather that he was wanting to *learn* His law. We all could use a healthy dose of that kind of desire! We recall the Bereans, who searched the Scriptures daily in order to determine if what they heard from Paul and others was correct (Acts 17:11). Blessed is the fellow who delights in God’s law and meditates in that law day and night. The Bible says so (Psalm 1:1,2). Regardless of what other tasks we might have on our plate for this year, let every one of us make a renewed commitment to be like Ezra and diligently seek God’s law. Doing so pays tremendous dividends!

(3) Ezra had prepared his heart to **DO** the law of God. Ezra realized that God gave the Israelites the Law of Moses, not just so they could say that they had it, and it was not simply so they could seek and learn it. No, God gave it to them so that they would *obey* it. That is exactly what Ezra had made up his mind to do – *do* whatever the God of heaven commanded. God had earlier told Joshua, “*Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest*” (Joshua 1:7).

What is it that Christians are told about doing what God’s word says? “*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves*” (James 1:22). The universal principle for servants is simple: “. . . *I say . . . to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it*” (Luke 7:8). As the Lord’s servants, we want to obey Him, right?

(4) Ezra had prepared his heart to **TEACH** in Israel statutes and judgments. Our picture of Ezra is not complete without this fourth piece of information. We must not miss it! Ezra prepared his heart, he wanted to seek God’s law, wanted to obey God’s law, *and* he wanted to teach His law. As children of God, we must not be satisfied just *knowing* His word. Nor should we be satisfied with the fact that we *live* according to its instructions. We must go beyond knowledge and living holy lives to teaching God’s word to others. One sign of spiritual maturity is being able to handle “the meat” (Hebrews 5:12-14). Another factor in spiritual maturity is our ability to impart what we know to others. That same context in Hebrews 5 bears this out. Each Christian has a different level of teaching ability. My task is to use whatever level of knowledge and teaching capability that I have to teach others. Lost people must be taught! Children must be taught! Saints of God must be taught! God’s church needs teachers in order to carry out its work.

Again, what was it that Ezra did? He “*prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach. . .*” So, it is now conclusion time. Could this congregation use an Ezra? What local church would not be better off with such a man in its midst?! In fact, this congregation, as well as all others, could use a bunch of Ezras! May God help us to appreciate the type of person that Ezra was and strive to imitate his attitude and commitment to serving God faithfully.