

A Heart Prepared for God

An essential part of doing anything that is significant in our lives is preparation. We often set aside time and resources to prepare for many of the things that are important to us. Serving God is one of the most important things we will do and preparing a heart to search His word and then put it into practice is essential to our faith. Ezra is a great example of someone who did just that. Ezra 7:10 shows us just what he was willing to do as a man that God could use for His divine purpose. In the bible, both young and old, experienced and beginners are encouraged in preparing their hearts. (Ecc. 12:1, Eph. 6:4, Rom. 10:10, Prov.23:6-8, Matt.12:34-35)

I. How to Prepare our Heart

- a. Recognize our heart is like soil (Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23)
- b. Put aside the things of this world and immorality
 - i. Rehoboam (2 Chron. 12:14)
 - ii. Thessalonians (2 Thess. 2:10-12)
- c. Delight on the Law of the Lord (Psalm 1:2, Phil.4:8, Prov.4:23)
- d. Understand the war between the physical and the spiritual (Rom.7:22-23, 8:5-9, Gal. 5:16-18, 22-23)

II. Why Prepare our Heart

- a. To search God's Law (2 Tim.2:15)
 - i. An attitude of seeking is what God wants (Matt. 7:7)
 - ii. It builds the necessary faith (Heb. 11:6)
- b. To do the will of God (Matt. 7:21-27, James 1:22-25)
- c. To be able to teach the others God's plan
 - i. Remember Ezra's example (Ez. 7:11, 25)
 - ii. We should become good teachers, moving God's plan forward (Heb. 5:12-14, 2 Tim. 2:2)

A life dedicated to God is the most important priority we can have. Setting our mind and heart to that task is the challenge that is before us. (Col.3:2) How we prepare and the time we give to doing so, will certainly affect our faith and help our conviction remain strong. Let's be like Ezra and prepare our heart to seek the law of the Lord, becoming a shining light for the glory of our God!