

**I. HISTORICAL REVIEW: A DESPERATE NEED FOR REVITALIZATION**

- A. CHURCH DESTROYED (605BC)
- B. CHURCH RESTORED (538BC)
- C. WORSHIP RESTORED (536-516BC)
- D. RESTORATION REVITALIZED (458BC; Ezra 7-10)

**II. EZRA THE REVITALIZER**

- A. PRIEST & SCRIBE (Ezr.7:5,6)
- B. THE HAND OF GOD (Ezr.7:6,9,28; 8:18,22; see Neh.2:8,18; Rom.8:31)
- C. BECAUSE... (Ezr.7:9,10)
- D. POINT: IMITATION (1Tm.4:16,11f; see 1Cor.11:1; 4:16; Eph.5:1; 2Tm.3:10)

**III. EVERY BELIEVER MUST BE A TEACHER LIKE EZRA**

- A. HUSBANDS (1Cor.14:35; see Eph.5:25f)
- B. PARENTS (Dt.6:1-9; Ps.78:1-8; Prov.1:8; 4:3; 6:20; 31:1; Eph.6:1-4; 2Tm.1:5; 3:14f)
- C. OLDERS (Tt.2:3-5; Heb.2:12f; 5:11-14; see 1Tm.5:17)
- D. PASTORS (Eph.4:11; 1Tm.4:11,13,16; 5:17; 2Tim.2:2; see Mk.4:38; 6:34)

**IV. EVERY TEACHER MUST BE A STUDENT LIKE EZRA**

- A. MOSES (Ex.4:12,15)
- B. EZRA (Ezra 7:9,10)
- C. JESUS! (Lk.2:40,51f; Jn.8:28(5:19; 3:11); Heb.5:8)
- D. PAUL (2Tim.4:13; see Acts 22:3; 5:34)
- E. TIMOTHY (2Tim.2:2; 3:10f)
- F. PARENTS (Ps.78:3-8)

**V. EZRA: A MODEL STUDENT**

- A. PRIESTS AS *TEACHERS* (Ezra 7:1-10,25; Neh.8:1-8; see Mal.2:7)
  - 1. sacrifices: teaching by works (Dt.33:10; see Heb.3:10; i.e., sacraments; 2Cor.5:21 w/Lev.1:3,4; 16:21)
  - 2. law: teaching by words (Lev.10:11; Dt.24:8; 33:8,10; Ezk.22:26 /Dt.24:8; 2K.17:27f; 2Chr.15:3; 17:7f; 35:3)
  - 3. conclusion: teachers must study! (Ezra 7:6,11; see above; note: rulers also, Dt.17:18f; 2Chr.19:5f)
- B. THE *PREPARATION FOR STUDY: SET HIS HEART* (Ezra 7:10; Ps.78:8; see Jn.4:34)
  - 1. heart: the whole inner man (Prov.4:23; Mt.12:34; 15:18,19)
  - 2. set: lay a foundation (Ezra 3:3; 7:10; Ps.78:8; see Mt.7:24f; 1Cor.3:11; Eph.2:20)
  - 3. set heart: fix thoughts, desires, commitments (Dt.24:15; Ps62:10(Mt7:24f) /Ps51:10; 57:7; 108:1; 112:7 /Acts6:4)
  - 4. consequences of failure in this point (2Chr.12:14(19:3); Ps.78:8,37)
  - 5. illustration: the base of a useful vessel (see 2Tm.2:21)
- C. THE *PROCESS OF STUDY: THREEFOLD* (Ezra 7:10)
  - 1. to *SEEK* the word of God (Acts2:42; 17:11; 1Tm4:15f; Ps119:2,10,45,94; Is.8:19,20; 34:16 /1Chr22:19; Dan10:12)
  - 2. to *DO* the word of God (Mt.28:19; Ps.143:10 /Lk.6:46f; Ezk.33:31f; Mk.6:20; contra Mt.23:2,3; see 1Tm.3:1f)
  - 3. to *TEACH* the word of God (Ezra 7:10; 6,11,25; se 1Cor.14:35; Eph.5:25f; 6:1f; etc. above)
  - 4. note: logical, consecutive order (see 2Pt.1:5f)
  - 5. illustration: three sides of a useful vessel (see 2Tm.2:21)
- D. A GREAT HOPE (Neh.8:1-8; 9ff; 1Tm.4:16; 2Tim.3:14f; Ps.78:1-8)

**VI. IMITATE EZRA BY BEING A GOOD STUDENT AND A FAITHFUL TEACHER!** (Ezra 7:10; 1Tm.4:16; w/2Tim.2:21f; 3:14f; see Acts 17:11; see esp. Jn.4:34; 8:28f)