INTRODUCTION
1. In our text we see Ezra preparing his heart to seek the law of the Lord.
2. Ezra was a priest and scribe during the restoration of Israel from captivity in Babylon.
3. Just as Ezra needed to prepare his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, so do we today.
4. Let us look at some ways to prepare to seek the law of the Lord.

I. FIRST THE DESIRE TO SEEK ONLY THE LAW OF THE LORD MUST BE IN THE HEART.
   1. This was Ezra’s only desire, “To seek the law of the Lord, and to do it”.
   2. Jesus said today that this must be man’s only motive – John 7:17.
   3. Peter said we must desire the word – I Pet. 2:2; Jesus – Matt. 5:6; 7: 7 – 8.
   4. Old Testament passages that show one must desire the Law of the Lord above all else –Deut. 4:29, 
   5. Paul teaches the same truth in 2 Thess. 2: 10 – 12.
   6. We must seek the Law of the Lord in the right place:
      (1) Not in dreams and visions.
      (2) Not in the creeds, manuals, and councils of men.
      (3) God’s will is once for all revealed – Jude 3; I Cor. 13:10.

II. ONE MUST RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF GOD’S WORD
   1. We must realize that God’s word has authority over our:
      (1) Opinions
      (2) Feelings
      (3) Conscience
      (4) Friends
      (5) Family
      (6) Preacher
      (7) Creed Books
      (8) The “Pope”
      (9) Discipline
   3. Jude 3
      1. Complete
      2. Intelligible – Eph. 5:17.
      4. Power to save.

III. BY REALIZING OUR NEED OF GOD’S WORD OR LAW.
   1. Jer. 10:23 – “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to 
direct his own steps.”
2. Only in God’s Word has God given us light to give us understanding to direct our steps – Psa. 119: 130, 105.
3. His Word has power to save our souls – Rom. 1:16; James 1:21; Psa. 19:7.

IV. ONE PREPARES HIS HEART BY DESTROYING HUMAN JUDGMENT AND REMOVING PREJUDICE FROM THE HEART.
1. Some of God’s commands are galling to human judgment; man in his wisdom cannot see the need for them.
2. Some things human judgment cannot see:
   (1) Baptism to be saved from past sins – Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16.
   (2) Lord’s Supper every first day of the week – Acts 20:7.
   (3) One church – Matt. 16:18.

V. BY BEING WILLING TO APPLY GOD’S LAWS TO OURSELVES
1. David could see the sin of the man who took another man’s lamb, but not his own sin in taking another man’s wife, and having her husband killed to cover his sin – 2 Sam. 12: 1 – 9.
2. Some examples today:
   (1) We can see the sin of those who helped crucify the Lord.
   (2) We can see the sin of the man who worships idols.
       1. Some today, by being covetous, are guilty of idolatry – Col. 3:5.
   (3) We can see the sin of the modernist who makes fun of the blood of Christ.
       1. Some, by the way they treat the church, do the same – Heb. 10: 25 – 29.

CONCLUSION
1. What will be the result of our preparing our hearts to seek the Law of the Lord??
   (1) Will we do it?—Ezra 7:10.
       1. Faith without obedience is dead – James 2:17, 22, 24, 28.
   (2) We will teach it to others – Ezra 7:10.
       1. One’s duty is not completed in seeking, finding, and doing – one must teach others – Matt. 28: 19 – 20; 2 Tim. 2:2.
       2. One will want to teach others.
2. Are you seeking the Law of the Lord??

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