

**SERMON NOTES - CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW YEAR**  
**Ezra 7:10 Principle**  
**EZRA 7:6-10**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**A. Profile of Ezra**

1. The Book of Ezra is ascribed to the authorship of Ezra. It is also believed that Ezra authored the Books of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles, Nehemiah and Psalm 119.
2. Ezra is referred to in the Bible as a Priest and Scribe of the Law of the God of Heaven (Ezra 7:6, 11, 21).
  - a. **Priest** refers to an official who was set apart from the rest of the community in order to carry out certain duties associated with worship and sacrifice.
  - b. **Scribes** were used merely as clerks or secretaries to copy royal and sacred manuscripts. Scribes had knowledge of the Law and could draft legal documents, (contracts for marriage, divorce, loans, inheritance, mortgages, the sale of land and the like).

**B.** The Bible is the Word of God: It is like a compass – It always points the Believer in the right direction (Anonymous).

**C.** Study the Bible to be Wise; Believe it to be Safe; Practice it to be Holy. Study it Through, Pray it In, Work it Out, Note it Down, Pass it On – (Jim and Elizabeth George).

**D.** Ezra means “Help.” He was the second of the key leaders to leave Babylon for the reconstruction of Jerusalem.

**Based on verse 10 of our text, we will study three challenges for the New Year. Continue to: (1) Study the Word of God, (2) Obey the Word of God, and (3) Teach the Word of God.**

❖ In v. 10 of our text, we noticed that Ezra **had prepared** his heart to do the Lord’s Word – make ready, to be firm, provide for, firmly established, set up, determination.

**I. Continue to Study the Word of God (v. 10a)**

- “Seek the Word of the Lord”
- **Seek** – Seek is to study, seek with care, inquire, search, consult

**Reasons for Studying the Bible:**

**A. The Bible is God’s Word to us** – It is true, reliable and without errors.

**B. The Bible does not change** (It is not outdated)

**C. Study the Bible to know Truth from False Teaching**

Beware of False Teachers – those who seek to spread erroneous teaching in order to deceive God’s children (Matt 7:15; 2 Pet 2:1; Acts 17:10-11).

**D. Study the Bible to know Jesus as the source of eternal life; Biblical Doctrines and Attributes of God.**

**II. Continue to Obey the Word of God (v. 10b)**

- **“to do it”** – obey, practice, to accomplish

**Reasons for obeying the Word of God:**

- **Obeying the Word of God keeps us from sin** ((Ps 119:11, 105).

- A. **Obedying the Word of God shows that we love Jesus** (John 14:15, 21).
- B. **Obedying the Word of God results in Blessings** (Joshua 1:8)
- C. **Obedying the Word of God means Trust in God**
  - 1. Salvation  
**Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**
  - 2. Meeting your needs – No need for lottery tickets, astrology, fortune tellers and good luck charms (Phil 4:19; James 1:22)

### III. **Continue to Teach the Word of God** (v. 10c)

- **“To Teach”** – instruct, train, to exercise in, learn

#### **Reasons for Teaching the Word of God:**

- A. **Teach the Bible because it is Profitable** (2 Tim 3:16-17).
  - 1. **“For Doctrine”** – help us to understand and brings clarity to life
  - 2. **“For Reproof”** – shows us how we have sinned
  - 3. **“For Correction”** – points us to the truth when we are in error
  - 4. **“For Instruction in Righteousness”** – shows us how to obey God
- B. **Teach the Bible because it is Required** (Matt 28:20)
  - Jesus commanded Believers to make disciples, not just converts – Disciples are made by teaching the Word of God. This is a requirement for fulfilling the Great Commission.
- C. Teach the Word of God by way of Bible Studies, Biblical Ministries, sharing your testimony, passing out Gospel Tracts.

#### **Conclusion:**

- A. Challenges for the New Year – Continue to: (1) Study the Word of God, (2) Obey the Word of God, and (3) Teach the Word of God.
- B. Pray over the Word of God. Ask God to help you hear the Word of God, Obey the Word of God, Honor the Word of God and Proclaim the Word of God.
- C. **The A-B-C’s of Salvation**
  - **Admitt that you are Sinner.** “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23).
  - **Believe on Christ.** “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved” (Acts 16:11).
  - **Confess your Faith.** “<sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.  
<sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom 10:9-10).

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**“...the word of our God shall stand for ever”** (Isa 40:8).