

Privileged to Serve

Announcements and Sick..... Jody McCoy
Songs of WorshipCharles Rice

Prayer:

A.M. Prayer before Worship Alvin Goldey
A.M. Closing PrayerChris Chaney
P. M. Opening PrayerBrian Rice
P.M. Closing Prayer Greg Brewer

February:

Communion:

Reading Rob Little
Serving Dan Newell Jr & Greg Brewer
Communion to the Sick..... Mack Rice & Walter Rice
Collection..... Kyle Lucas & Jody McCoy
Prepare Communion..... Paula Rice
Van Driver Shane Burgher
Cleaning Outside Rob Little & Greg Brewer

Let's Laugh a Little

Two men were out on the lake fishing one Sunday morning. About 10:00am one fisherman said, "Tom, we ought to be ashamed of ourselves. It is now church time and here we are on the lake. The other one responded, "I couldn't have gone anyway; my wife is sick."

The preacher called on an elderly woman who had been missing church and admonished her that she should be thinking about the hereafter. She told him, "I do all the time. No matter where I am: in the living room, the kitchen, upstairs, downstairs, or the basement, I ask myself, "what am I hereafter?"

A tightwad who was drowning in a lake was pulled to shore by a stranger. The miser's wife suggested that he give the rescuer \$100 for saving his life. The skinflint argued, "Maybe I should give him only \$50, because I was only half dead when he saved me."

A swimmer who had a rash called on the preacher for help. He said, "I thought maybe you know what Jesus did when he cured the sick of "divers diseases."

Restoring Truth in our Lives

Gregory Alan Tidwell

Each phase of biblical history provides examples of godly men and women who encourage us to follow the same path of faith.

In the time of the restoration after the Babylonian captivity, we read of Ezra, the scribe who led about 5,000 Jewish exiles living in Babylon to the city of Jerusalem. In his life, we can find the truth of spiritual greatness in God's service. "For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel" (Ezra 7:10 ESV).

How is your Heart?

"Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord." Beyond fleeting emotion, Ezra had conviction. It was a conscious decision to study God's Word.

All authentic spirituality begins with recognition of God's authority. Without submission to the will of God, we are cut off from the Lord's blessings. Ezra could say with the psalmist, "My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times" (Psalm 119:20). This passion should lead the Lord's church to place Bible study as one of our highest priorities, reflecting our love for God.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

God could use Ezra to accomplish great things because not only did Ezra "set his heart to study the Law of the Lord" but also "to do it." His commitment to understand the will of God was matched by his zeal in putting what he learned into practice.

Although "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17), "it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified: (2:13). God does not call us to dabble in Christianity. The Lord calls us to make a commitment of faith, a commitment that engages all of life.

A Shared Truth

Ezra's commitment to the Lord went beyond personal study and personal application. Ezra set his heart "to teach his statutes and rules in Israel."

Four centuries before the time of Christ, Ezra achieved greatness in the Lord's service through his engaged commitment to knowing, practicing, and teaching God's word. Following this pattern of faith in the 21st century after Christ, we also can achieve great things in the Lord's service.