

Morning Worship

September 17, 2017

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Worship Leader — Don Beavers

Piano — Marcia Hart

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Scripture Reading Psalm 96:1-3

Don/People

Hymn # 581 *We Have Heard the Joyful Sound*

Don/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Missions Moment

Hymn # 589 *Ye Servants of God*

Don/ People

Hymn # 575 *I Will Sing*

Don/People

Hymn # 576 *Take the Name of Jesus With You*

Don/People

Offering Prayer

Bill Schottel

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Marcia Hart

Solo

It Is No Secret

Don Beavers

Children's Worship

Children are dismissed

Scripture Reading

Allan/People

Message

Revival Under Ezra

Allan Lane

Ezra 7-10

Hymn # 312

Softly and Tenderly

Don/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Chorus # 384

The Bond of Love

Don/People

Revival Under Ezra

Ezra 7-10

* Thoughts taken from ***The Revivals of the Bible***, by Ernest Baker, compiled in Cape Town, South Africa, April 1906.

Fifty years passed since the first return from Babylon to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel. Now, a second party (about 7,000 in number) is moved to migrate with Ezra. Under his influence there was first, among the exiles in Babylon, a revival which led to a return to Jerusalem, and then at Jerusalem itself, among the descendants of Zerubbabel's party, there was an awakening which culminated in a wholesale putting away of heathen wives and customs. In Babylon Ezra gave himself to seek the law of the Lord, to do it and to teach it. His zeal and activity made an impression even upon the king, who gave him liberty to return to Jerusalem to teach the law there. Like Cyrus, Artaxerxes granted permission to all Jews to go back to Jerusalem; urged those who could not or did not want to go, to give liberally for the service of the house of the Lord; and himself, with his princes, contributed handsomely to the work which the returning exiles were urged to take in hand. Great power was given to Ezra in the appointment of judges and magistrates, and the enforcement of laws, and in administration generally; and commands were issued to the officers of the province to support the cause which Ezra had at heart. The party set out on the first day of the first month. At Ahava they rested for three days before setting out for the most dangerous portion of the journey. The perils of the expedition seem to have faced Ezra at this point. His party was not composed of trained men. They were not used to

fighting, and the route was beset with thieves. The treasure which they carried would be a great attraction to those who lived by violence. Ezra could have asked for an escort, but he was ashamed to do so, because he said, "We had spoken unto the king, saying, the hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek Him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him." So a period of fasting and prayer was prescribed, and the cause submitted to God. The adventures and happenings of the four months' journey, of something like 800 miles, have no more space allotted to them than the brief words: "The hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy, and of such as lay in wait by the way."

Arriving at Jerusalem, a period of religious services and offerings ensued. The silver and the gold were handed over to the proper authorities; the letters to the King's lieutenants and governors were delivered; and, as directed, these furthered the people and the work of the Lord. Then it was told Ezra that the Jews to whom he had come were not separated from the people of the land, but were doing according to the filthiness of the surrounding nations. This amalgamation of habit and character was due to intermingling in marriage. The statement was a painful revelation to the new leader. Such marriages were contrary to the Law of Moses. Ezra was dumbfounded and discouraged. No blessing could be expected with such backsliding. For a whole day he sat speechless; and those who trembled at God's Word gathered around him in sympathy. In the evening he arose and poured out his soul to God. He asked for nothing. He could only confess the sin and mourn over it, and acknowledge that if God did to them as He had the right to do, they would perish. His grief and prayer had a wonderful effect upon the people; and one of them, Shechaniah by name, expressed their thoughts when he declared that they must deal with the matter and put the strange wives away. But in the work of reformation Ezra must lead. At once the scribe took advantage of the feeling, and bound those present with an oath to do according to Shechaniah's word. Then an assembly was convened; and, during the days in which the notices were circulating concerning it, Ezra retired to pray and fast. The assembly met in a great rain, but the people were in earnest. They trembled when their sin was brought home to them. They acknowledged the seriousness of it, and resolved to deal with it in a thorough manner; but they pleaded for time. It was not a matter which could be attended to in a few hours, or even days. Wives and children could not be summarily dismissed. They had rights and were entitled to consideration. Courts must sit to judge the various matters that demanded attention. The decision was taken then and there to end the prevailing state of things, but time was allowed for affairs to be settled as humanely and justly as possible. This occupied two months, but the work was done as decided. Here are some observations from the Ezra Revival.

1. Ezra and the Law .

The work of revival began in Ezra. He "had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." This means he made up his mind, and determined to know the law of the Lord. This was to be his particular study. He is portrayed as "a ready scribe in the law of Moses," "a scribe of the words of the Commandments of the Lord, and of His statutes to Israel." He was a copyist of the law. To seek the law means he determined upon making an accurate copy. This meant much re- search, and labor; but if he were to do and teach it he must be prepared for this. We do not have to make our own copies today; they are made for us. But we should see to it that we each get a good and a readable one. It is the burden of many sincere souls that their Bibles yield them neither pleasure nor profit. The Scriptures are tiring to many, because they attempt to read them under

conditions under which they would not think of doing their ordinary reading. There is no book that people attempt to read in such small type as they do the Bible. They are handicapped for pleasure at the start. Reading is necessarily irksome under such conditions. Pocket Bibles have their use, but a person who only possesses one of these will never be a Bible reader. It is a strain to continue reading more than a few verses at the time. The same is true of the ordinary Teacher's Bible. Maps, helps, references, etc., are all packed within a small compass, and the text of the Scriptures is again painfully small. Whatever other Bibles may be added, the first one should be chosen, not for its portability, its helps, or wide margins for notes, but for its good print, and so for comfortable and easy reading. The next thing is to learn to obey the Word. Jesus puts great emphasis upon the doing of His will. "Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." Those who hear and do are likened unto the man building his house upon the rock; but those who hear only are compared to the man who builds his house upon the sand. "If ye continue in My words, then are ye My disciples indeed." "He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." Our attitude to the words of Jesus determines our attitude to Jesus Himself. All the titles which we are prepared to grant to Him count for nothing if we do not His will as revealed in His utterances. Having learnt the law and practiced it, Ezra taught it. He did not teach before he had learnt to do. But he found obedience possible, and when he had demonstrated this, he felt free to teach. We cannot urge obedience higher than the one we find practicable for ourselves. The measure of our teaching is set by our doing.

2. Ezra and His God .

Ezra knew so much about God, talked so often about Him, and did His will so constantly, that he and God became identified, and the names of God and Ezra were coupled together. Up to a point the narrative in the book of Ezra is written in the third person. The author of this portion speaks of the good hand of "his God" being upon him. Then Artaxerxes, addressing Ezra, says, "Thy God." Ezra himself says, "My God." Ezra confessed to a personal relationship existing between himself and God; and the testimony of those writing to him, and of him, in the second and the third persons, is evidence that his life made good this claim. Ezra became identified with God, because God and His law were the prevailing topics with him. Just note the knowledge of God the heathen king obtained through Ezra's testimony. Artaxerxes speaks of "the God of heaven," "the God of Israel," "thy God." He knows the Lord has a house, that this is at Jerusalem, that He has given a law, and that this law is embodied in a book which is in Ezra's hands. The law of God is a law to do, and one capable of being taught and understood. There is a service of God's house; and what the requirements of this service are in men, money, furniture and sacrifices, is known to the king. And this testimony which Ezra gave about God was one that committed him to a faithful and consistent life. There were things which he was prevented from doing, because they would appear inconsistent with it. He was ashamed, he tells us, to ask for an escort, because of the witness he had given to the king about the loving care of his God. Here is the value of testimony. It not only informs others about God, but it helps to keep us straight. It makes a standard by which we are bound to endeavor to live. And when we tremble as Ezra did before the difficulties of consistency, we, like him, are compelled, in our weakness, to pray for strength. Testimony about our God compels consistency, and trust, and prayer.

3. Ezra the Hand of the Lord.

One of Ezra's characteristic expressions is "the hand of the Lord." "The king granted him all his requests, according to the hand of the Lord his God upon him." "He came to Jerusalem according to the good hand of his God upon him." "I was strengthened as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me." "By the good hand of our God upon us they brought us a man of understanding." "The hand of our God was upon us, and He delivered us from the hand of the enemy." For the hand of the Lord to be upon us means that we are under its direction. It guides, and we are obedient to its leadings. It protects, and none can pluck us out of His hand. It also provides. It brings help to us as required. And it strengthens us for work. It gives us confidence that when guided by Him we shall not fail.

4. Ezra and the People's Sin .

The transgression of the people was a burden to Ezra. It was a personal sorrow. It took the heart out of him, and robbed him of his appetite. He mourned and confessed as if he himself had transgressed. The awfulness of it came home to him. He knew there could be no prosperity while these unhallowed and unauthorized unions lasted. They had not merely committed a mistake; they had sinned and had forfeited God's favor. They had no claim upon Him. Only by an act of marvelous clemency on God's part could the past be blotted out. It was this sense of sin which gave to Ezra his power. His consciousness of sin created a similar one in the people. They trembled on account of their transgression. For years they had lived in this condition, without a qualm of conscience. But now God's law, working in a heart to which that law was a power, quickened their consciences, and they became aware of the awfulness of their condition. We need today a greater sense of sin. There will be no serious attempt to be separated from it all the time we think of it as weakness and as being excusable. While we shut our eyes to the great penalties attached to sin, and while we regard the pardon of God as a right to which we are entitled, but expressive of no particular grace on His part, we shall not make a life and death struggle with it. The people around us are lighthearted in the life which they are living of alienation from God. Their condition does not trouble them. The people around Ezra were in a similar mood until he discovered to them by God's law, and his own God-given horror and concern, the heinousness of their transgression. We must allow God's Word to reveal to us the state of the people. God's estimate of sin, and not man's, must rule in our hearts. The measure of our appreciation of the Cross of Christ, which tells us of the tremendous sacrifice needed by God to end this matter, will be the measure of our power to turn the people from their sins.

Take Sin Personally!

Women's Involvement Encouraged

Thursday it was my blessing to take some Calvary women to Grand Oaks for the WMU Conference. There were almost 90 women total in attendance. It's never easy to feel like a minority, but it was heartwarming to be with women throughout north Missouri willing to be On Mission for God's Kingdom. We all want to see the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) of our Lord fulfilled but there is some disagreement about the best ways to see it completed. People are always looking for better methods while God is looking for willing people for His harvest fields. Jesus told His disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest fields (Matthew 9:36-38).

More than two-thirds of the mission force around the world has been and is currently comprised of women. In China women lead about 90% of the house fellowships that now have more than 100 million Christians. While the government persecutes and imprisons men, many of the women are left to attend to their families and so have risen to the many high levels of

church leadership throughout China. The best-kept secret is the leadership of women in planting and growing churches throughout China today.

Dr. Meg Kraft of Biola's Intercultural Studies department writes, "Many mission executives agree that the more difficult and dangerous the work, the more likely women are to volunteer to do it." Pastor David Yonggi Cho of the 500,000-member church in Seoul Korea writes, "We conclude that women are the best choice for difficult, pioneering work. We have found that in these situations, women will never give up. Men are good for building up the work, but women are best for persevering when men get discouraged."

Dr. Kraft also says some fear that because of the unique obstacles of reaching the Muslim world, Western women can play no part. Yet in a nomadic Muslim group in Sub-Saharan Africa, a single woman is effectively training Imams (Islamic teachers) in the Gospel. They perceive her to be non-threatening. After all, she's "just a woman." Building upon a foundation of interpersonal relationship and Bible knowledge, she does not give answers to their questions, but directs them to the Word of God. The Lord has confirmed her teaching, giving dreams and visions to these leaders. As they have been converted, they are now training others. She is accepted as a loving, caring elder sister, who gives high priority to their welfare.

Charles Osgood told the story of two ladies who lived in a convalescent center. Each had suffered an incapacitating stroke, one on her left side and the other on her right. Both accomplished pianists had given up hope of ever playing again. Encouraged by the center's director they learned to play together. Out of this friendship comes a beautiful picture of the church's need to work together. What one member cannot do alone, perhaps two or more could do together in harmony. Let's all work together for God's Kingdom purposes.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel. Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Wednesday, September 20

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 21

O Team 6:30 pm

Sunday, September 24, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Evening Worship 6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 27

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 28

W Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

September 17 — Business Meeting and Dinner at Noon

— Collect for Food Pantry

September 21 — Patee Park Food Pantry

September 24 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

September 25 — Workers Meeting 6:30 pm

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW! Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

We will not meet tonight, Sunday, September 17.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we will begin a new study this week. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner

We will have our regular business meeting and carry in meal
immediately following the
morning worship service
Today, Sunday, September 17.

Metal Chairs Need a Good Home

We have several metal chairs left that are available for the taking. They are just inside the basement entrance. If you would like some, please feel free

to help yourself.

Servants Needed

Help! Our current van drivers need some relief! Would you be willing to drive one month out of the year? See George or Mike.

Missouri Missions Offering

The theme is 1 Corinthians 3:9a: "For we are laborers together with God." Envelopes are in the pews this week.

THANK YOU

Dear members of Calvary
Baptist Church,

Thank you for ministering to our family during the life and death of our son Peter. The food sent by the ladies of the Sunday School Class was very tasty and such a help to us! We felt your prayers, and are so blessed that you honored Peter's life through the donation of five Bibles. Thank you again for all of this and for your love and support.

In Christ,
Stephenie, Jason,
John Terpack

Food Pantry Collection Day!

Sunday, September 17

You may place your non-perishable items in the basket in the hallway at any time.
Thank You!

For the Record-

Attendance: September 10, 2017

Sunday School.....	38
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	40
Contacts Made.....	3
Morning Worship.....	43
Children's Worship.....	11
Sunday Night	9
Wednesday Night	13

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,367.00
MMO to date	\$ 600.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds

12...Grant Schottel

20...Elmer Mayse

20...LoLeta Middleton

20...Tim Waters

22...Rachael Molloy

23...Kenny Kirkpatrick

29...Lindsey Mayse

September Anniversaries

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests ...

Steve Noyes—recovery

The Waters Family—guidance

Stephanie & Jason Terpack

Shawna Hughes—home isolation

Chad Bradford—heart surgery

Gary and Sharon Yarbrough

Elmer and Jo Mayse

Larry Danner—cancer

Emily Jones, Tammy's daughter

Gina Harr—recovery

Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister

Pat Means—Mary Sharp's Sister

Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son

Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim

Don and Marcia — house sale

Troy Griswold—cancer treatment

Gary & Peggy Fewins and family

Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

LoLeta Middleton—strength

Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law

Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister

Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell

George Ferbert

Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer

Jim Winans	Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink	Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers	Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence	Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans	Kenny Duty
Kevin Duty	Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita	Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett	Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess	Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts	Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church	
David and Deborah Grace	
Our Nation and Leaders	
Our Military Service people	
Today's Prayer Requests ...	

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
