

■ Have I set my heart firmly ...

- To study the Word of God?
- To live by (do, obey) the Word of God?
- To teach the Word of God?

■ Why do I need to set my heart firmly?

- “It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him” (J.R.R. Tolkien, The Hobbit).
- Our default settings: By default we will use our reasoning abilities to edit incoming information to agree with what we already believe.
- This is how our the minds work. Our rationalizations know no limit as we look for evidence to support foregone conclusions. Apart from the direction of God we will contrive elaborate schemes to keep believing what we already believe and want to believe (universal sheep-like tendency). So how do we defeat this faulty editing system? Enter center stage, God’s word, as it is profitable in transforming our thinking. Through the words of God we can approach and receive truth outside the boundaries of our current knowledge in a way that is profitable to our spiritual growth. (David Scott, Living by the Words of God.)

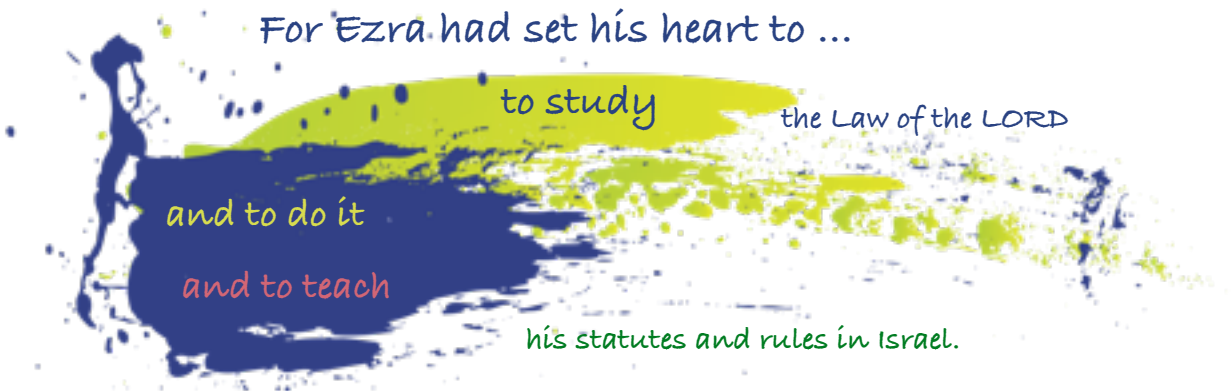
- (John 3:21 ESV) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.
- I hope you will come to agree with me that Bible study has to be seen as more than “Bible study,” high-lighters, theories, methods, principles and Sunday School curriculum. Bible study must lead to God speaking to us and changing our lives as that is God’s design and purpose.
- (Psalm 14:1a ESV) The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

■ What did the fool say “in his heart”?

■ What do I say in my heart?

■ Can I handle the truth?

For Ezra had set his heart to ...



Hunger for God trumps search for truth!

- (1 Chronicles 16:10-11 ESV) Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!
- (1 Chronicles 22:19a ESV) Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God.
- (Deuteronomy 4:29 ESV) But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- (2 Chronicles 15:12 ESV) And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul.
- (2 Chronicles 19:3 ESV) Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you ... have set your heart [firmly] to seek God.
- (Proverbs 28:5 ESV) Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.
- (Isaiah 55:6 ESV) Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.
- (Hosea 10:12 ESV) Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.
- (Zephaniah 2:3 ESV) Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

Can I handle the truth?

Only one way. Am I seeking the LORD no matter what? Is my heart firmly set to pursue God no matter where the truth leads?

QUIZ: How many times in the Bible does God tell us to seek the truth?

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nada,
zich,
zero,
zip.