

A Recipe for Success: Part #2

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On January 19, 2020, I preached a sermon called, "A Recipe for Success." Do you remember it? That feels like such a long time ago. The following bulletin is my outline (or part of it) from that sermon. I will break it down and share *ONE THING* each week for the next few weeks. Last week we focused on the phrase "Ezra had set his heart."

This week, let's focus on the next section of Ezra 7:10: "...To study the law of the LORD."

After Ezra determined in his heart to study God's law, he had to do something else.

The ONE THING: Ezra had to follow through and study the law of the LORD.

It's one thing to have good intentions, goals, and aspirations to do something like Bible study. But it's another to actually follow through. This is where so many people get derailed by the end of January. Good intentions are not good enough. We must follow through. For Ezra, studying the Law of the LORD wasn't a one-time occurrence. It was a continuous habit. There was a pursuit Ezra was engaged in, and nothing would get in his way. It would require discipline, time, and energy. It will be no different for us. But we already know this, right? So, the next question is, are we doing it? Hopefully, the answer is yes. Let's make an even bigger effort in 2021 to read God's word. Let's make a bigger effort to slow down and really meditate on passages. The word is to be hid in our hearts. This means, we can't rush through it. It will require slowing down and letting it settle in our hearts.

As we have had in times past, we have another Bible reading program. You may choose to use your own Bible reading program. Whatever you do, be sure you are opening God's word on a daily basis! It's pretty awesome to know we can hear from God as much as we want. Every time you open God's word, it doesn't have to be with a commentary next to it, or with your Blue Letter Bible app open, or Logos opened on your screen. It is also good to simply read the text, without breaking

down every word. And yet it's pretty sad we sometimes aren't as interested in hearing from God.
Let's do better with our follow through in 2021.

Benjamin Lee