The Hand of God
(Ezra 7:9-10)

Introduction:  1. (Romans 15:4).
  2. One of the great comforts found in the Bible is the fact that we need not
go through life alone (Romans 8:28).
  3. God’s care and the reason for his care for a man named, Ezra is recorded
   in the book that bears his name.
  4. Let’s learn a few lessons from this account.

I. Background to Ezra
   A. The children of God have been in captivity a long time.
   B. Ezra, a priest and a scribe gains permission from King Artaxerxes to return to
      Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
   C. It took him four months to make this trip (Ezra 7:9).
   D. It was a dangerous trip, and he didn’t request soldiers to escort them for the
      hand of God was upon them (Ezra 8:22, 31).

II. Why God’s Hand Was Upon Him
   A. (Ezra 7:9-10).
   B. He had prepared his heart.
      1. It was and still is a matter of the will.
      2. We choose our life’s priorities.
   C. To seek the Law of the Lord.
      1. The Hebrew word for seek literally means to “beat a path.”
      2. Ills. of neighbor’s dog.
      3. Do you “beat a path” to the Bible?
      4. Ills. of Pilgrim’s Progress (John Bunyan, 1678).
   D. To do the Law of the Lord.
      1. (James 1:22).
      2. There are many who know the Bible but won’t do it.
      3. (Matthew 7:21).
      4. Ills. of China.
   E. To teach the Law of the Lord.
      1. Will you keep what you know to yourself?
      2. (2 Timothy 2:2).
      3. Must I go and empty handed.

Conclusion:  1. Let’s abound in studying, doing, and teaching the word of God this year.