



## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM  
Worship 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM  
7:00 PM

[www.collinsvillecoc.org](http://www.collinsvillecoc.org)

*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## Collinsville Church of Christ

December 7, 2016

# Preparing the Heart

**G**od, in every dispensation, has always used prepared people to carry forth His will. God prepared Noah to preach His message to a dying world during the age of the Patriarchs. God prepared Moses, during his dispensation, to lead Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness. As a matter of fact, Moses had 80 years to prepare before he appeared before Pharaoh. During the Christian dispensation, the Apostles were to prepare other men to be faithful carriers of God's word.

God's pattern has not changed today. God is still seeking prepared people to fulfill His will and take the gospel to a dying world. What are you doing today to prepare your heart, soul, and mind to be a carrier of God's message?

Soon, training classes will begin in order to help equip every member for this work of the ministry. Will you make and take the time to attend? The most common reason people fail to do this all important work of the church is because people do not know what to say. It is very simple... let God do *ALL* of the talking. In order for that to happen, people must know the word of God. The upcoming training classes will equip each of us with tools to use to help study the Bible with those who really need to hear it. Will you prepare your heart so you can be ready?

The prophet Ezra always comes to mind whenever the word preparation is utilized in a sermon or bulletin article. It is plain to see why because the Bible says of Ezra, "For Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments (Ezra 7:10).

If only the Lord's church today was filled with people who would cultivate their hearts to be like Ezra'. In order for one to teach one must seek the law of God and practice the law of God. One cannot seek if one has not prepared his heart to seek.

God is in need of men and women today who will pattern their lives after Ezra. Preparing the heart takes

discipline and submission to the word of God. Those who love the Lord will do everything they can to prepare the heart so God can use them as a vessel of honor by taking the gospel to those who need to hear it. Will you prepare your heart?

-K.A. Pugh

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I began helping my father in his business (refrigeration and electrical contracting) at an early age. He would often take me out on jobs with him as a gofer. However, when I was fifteen, he took me to the local supply house and bought me a tool box and the tools I needed to be more help. I still have most, if not all, of those tools. He was equipping me to be even more service to him.

God has given us the tools for service. He has given us a light to show us the way (Psalm 119:105). He has given us a sharp sword that discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). He has equipped us for service in His kingdom.

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:16-17 ESV*

Work this week to become more proficient in the service of God. Study His word and apply the principles therein to become more competent in every good work.

TLM

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