

## **CCSC Weekend away 12-14 Oct 2018**

### **Ezra- The Church Restored**

\*A hundred years of History, covering the end of the Old Testament

#### ***1. Our God reigns!***

- He keeps his covenant promises 1:1
- He is redeeming and restoring a people to be his people 1:3
- He works through human history to achieve his purpose 1:2
- He energises 'stirrs up' and motivates his people to do his will (for their joy) 1:5
- He providentially provides for his people in unexpected ways 1:4,6

\* New Testament perspective

#### ***2. The Church family matters***

- The good shepherd who delivers, restores and leads home 2:1
- The good shepherd who knows his people by name all ch.2!
- The good shepherd who cares about his sheep (and their lambs)  
families matter and so does passing on the faith!
- The good shepherd who calls his sheep to holiness of life 2:49
- The good shepherd knows his sheep need the care of good leaders to lead  
them to worship 2:2, 68

\* The numbers are not huge. There is work to be done. There are promises yet to be fulfilled. They needed to settle, & to be obedient

\* New Testament perspective

#### ***3. Returning to Worship***

- spiritual foundations laid, as well as physical ones 3:11
- symbolism of the temple, God's presence & promise
- sacrifice central, God's provision for forgiveness 3:2
- songs of praise, the language of faith 3:10,11
- practical building to facilitate the above, seen visually as central to their lives

\* New Testament perspective

#### ***4. We have a Battle to fight!*** – (against the world, the flesh and the devil)

- the world in the Church, polite but manipulative 4:2
  - the world seeking to discourage, if don't get their way 4:4f
  - the world bringing outright opposition to the purposes of God 4:6f; 6:24
- But-preaching of God's Word, to encourage
- presence of a watching, caring, enabling and over-ruling God 5:5
  - perseverance of God's redeemed, restored and faithful servants