A PATTERN FOR WORSHIP RESTORATION  
(Ezra 3:1-13)

I. Go to the right source (vs.1-2).
   A. The people came together to keep the feast of tabernacles that God had commanded them to keep in Numbers 29:12ff.
   B. Notice how they got the directions for keeping this feast (vs. 2b).
   C. They went to God’s word to see what needed to be done to properly follow this command to observe the feast of tabernacles.
   D. They came at the right time - the 7th month.
      1. God had told Moses that He wanted the people to come together for this feast on the 15th day of the 7th month.
      2. This was the proper time to observe this feast.
      3. No other time was acceptable.
   E. They offered the right offerings.
      1. Numbers 29 gives explicit detail as to what offering was to be made and when.
      2. They even built the altar in the way God had described to Moses, on which they could make these offerings.
   F. They came to the right place - Jerusalem.
      1. Moses had told them that God would put His name in a place to be worshiped (Deuteronomy 12:5).
      2. This place was Jerusalem and we know that because that is where David brought the ark and where Solomon built the temple, both allowed by God.
   G. All of this they learned from God’s word.
   H. If anyone today wants to worship God properly, they need to go to the right source, which is the New Testament.
   I. This book plainly tells us how God wants to be worshiped.
      1. He tells us to pray.
      2. He tells us to give only on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
      3. He tells us to partake of the Lord’s Supper only on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
      4. He tells us to teach.
      5. He tells us to sing using our voices (Ephesians 5:19).
   J. Anything else done in worship comes from a different source and is not approved or authorized by God.
   K. Anyone can worship God in these ways if they will simply go by God’s word.

II. Be willing to make a sacrifice (vs. 3-7).
   A. God had commanded Moses for there to be sacrifices offered at both morning and evening.
      1. Also, sacrifices were to be made at the new moon and the feasts.
      2. Up to now, this had been neglected for many years.
      3. To be right with God and worship Him properly, as well as to deal
with their sins, they were willing to make these sacrifices.

B. A sacrifice was willingly made for us by God in the person of Jesus (Hebrews 10:10).
   1. This sacrifice was made for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21).
   2. It was necessary because only blood can wash away sins (Hebrews 9:22).
   3. Thankfully, this offering only had to be made once (Hebrews 10:12), unlike the offerings of the Mosaic Law.

C. This sacrifice by Jesus was made so that mankind could be saved (Hebrews 10:4; John 3:16).

D. Once we realize that a sacrifice has been made for us, if we want to worship God, we must make a sacrifice as well.
   1. This sacrifice is a sacrifice of self (Romans 12:1).
   2. We humble ourselves before God and do His will at the sacrifice of our own (Matthew 18:4; James 4:6, 10).
   3. We give ourselves to His work and will.
   4. We sacrifice our fleshly wants and wishes in order to be right with God and have Him on the throne of our hearts.

E. We will sacrifice what we want in worship for what God has commanded.

F. Will worship is sinful (Colossians 2:20-23).

III. **Build upon the proper foundation (vs. 8-13).**

A. The Israelites had neglected the building of the temple and needed to get to work on why the returned.
   1. Finally, they did so and when it was built there was rejoicing on their part.
   2. Also, there were tears of sadness from the older generation who remembered Solomon’s temple and its grandeur.
   3. All of these mixed together in sound before God.

B. In order for them to worship properly, they needed the temple rebuilt and there was the foundation there for it.

C. If we want to be right with God, we must build on the proper foundation, which is Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:10-11).
   1. The only truth out there is the truth that Jesus offers (John 14:6).
   2. This truth is the word of God (John 17:17).

D. Many people try and build on foundations of men.
   1. Belief systems devised by men are fatal and faulty.
   2. Whenever we build on something other than Jesus, we will suffer the same fate as the foolish man who built his house on the sand.

E. Our spiritual lives will be sturdy and durable if we build on Jesus.
   1. He is the Rock to which we must anchor our lives (Hebrews 6:19).
   2. We can withstand the storms when we build on Jesus, but all other foundations crumble and fail.