

The Blog 5

Weekly Blog on the On-line Group Meeting to Consider- A Rule of Life for Lockdown

The Fifth Session (3rd June) we looked at I Thessalonians 5 v 12-28 (Advice to a Church)

It was great to see 16 people online. We were Ian and Sonya Stocker, Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, Liz Chappell, Frances Urwin, Matt Thomson, Howard Worsley, Kay Friend, Beth Ashton-Hilton, Margaret Hamilton, Kirsty Bowles, Jenny and Baz Nottage, Avril Chadwick and Wendy Reakes.

Howard hosted and Ian led to Bible discussion on

The format was the same as before....

- 1) Check in (saying 'Hi' and catch up generally and praying the Methodist Covenant Prayer hosted by HW)
- 2) Flight Time (Sharing insights about the rule of life (good habits for godly living), and looking at I Thessalonians 5:12-28), led by IS
- 3) Check Out (prayer)

Our catch up (check in) was longer than previously because we were not so constrained by the thought of being cut off by zoom after 60 minutes. This gave everyone a chance to share their situation and their thoughts about their emerging rules of life.

The flight time (text study) was shorter in length but loaded with advice to us in our situation. (see (only) 3 pages by commentator William Barclay p206-208). Ian facilitated a study that considered;

- Of all of Paul's advice, what is most impacting to you and why?
- What (of Paul's advice) do you find easiest to do?
- What is the hardest thing Paul is asking?
(consider the context of persecution into which Paul is writing)
- At the end, let's say Paul's prayer of blessing over each other (v 23-28).
- Much was said and probably the easiest summary of it is the text itself.

Final Instructions (I Thessalonians 5)

- ***¹²Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³Hold them in the***

highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

- ***¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.***
- ***¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.***
- ***²³May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.***
- ***²⁵Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶Greet all God's people with a holy kiss. ²⁷I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.***
- ***²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.***

Next Week for

The Sixth Session (10th June),

We'll review our group time asking what we have valued, how we'd like to proceed in following weeks (ie date and time, study topic, format, leadership etc) and how we might develop a communal Rule of Life that maps our life together in lockdown.

Howard Worsley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting which is the same code as last time.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZUqce2gqDMpE9Uf1aJeCd5sQhKW0jw8UI2_ics?icsToken=98tyKuGpgT0uEtKdsxCGRpwcB4_oLPzwplxex_pomk7kKSVwZlBIB-ppBeJ1B4DI

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81764868391>

Meeting ID: 817 6486 8391

Our format on 10th June will be as usual (check in, flight time and check out).

Our flight time will HAVE TWO PARTS.

- The first part will be a review of the past five weeks led by Ian Stocker.
 - What has been good about our first attempt at an on-line group?
 - How might we do even better?
 - How will we include those who can't access this? (or to include others by expanding this?)
 - What material in the Bible might be our future focus?
 - Shall we expand our leadership of this group?
 - Is there a better night than Wednesday or a better time than 7.30-9.00pm?
- The second part will focus on the development of the Rule of Life, led by me (HW). In this section I will specifically ask for an insight into the Rule of Life (3-4 minutes each) as is currently practiced by;
 - Beth Ashton-Hilton
 - Nick and Sarah (insights from Chemin Neuf)
 - Wendy Reakes &
 - Matt Thomson (insights from Franciscanism/ Celtic Saints).

I will then open up the conversation to us all.

In preparing for it, please consider what patterns of Godly living you are making habitual on a:

- Daily basis
- Weekly basis
- Monthly/ termly basis and an
- Annual basis

Are there habits that are seasonal?

Are there habits that connect us so that we can have overlap and thereby share a communal rule of life?

See you on the 10th June at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81764868391>

Meeting ID: 817 6486 8391

Stay in peace
Howard