

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

The Second Session (13th May)

It was great to see 13 people online. We were Ian and Sonya Stocker, Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, David Kemp, Baz and Jenny Nottage, Kirsty Bowles, Liz Chappell, Frances Urwin, Matt Thomson, Howard Worsley and Kay Friend. We were nearly joined by David and Beth Ashton-Hilton (who appeared and then vanished).

We looked at I Thessalonians 1-2:16

Some pages from William Barclay's commentary were previously circulated.

The format was the same as before....

- 1) Check in (say 'Hi' and catch up generally and Prayer)
- 2) Flight Time (Sharing insights about the rule of life (good habits for godly living), and looking at I Thessalonians 1-2:16)
- 3) Check Out (prayer)

- a) 1 Thessalonians 1 v 1-10 Paul's loving introduction

Paul greeted the Thessalonians in their new Church community by words of great affection and love. He was always encouraging.

He convinced them about the gospel that he preached by detailing that he was acting because of 'the nudging' of the Holy Spirit (v 4).

- b) 1 Thessalonians 2 v 1-12 Paul's Defence of His motivation in coming to Thessalonica

We noted that Paul was writing this letter of love having been accused of coming with impure motives (v 3), trying to trick people (v3), trying to please people with flattery (v 5), being greedy (v 5), or looking for praise (v 6). He defended himself by reminding the Thessalonians of his true motives and his love (acting like a mother (v 7) and a father (v 11)).

All this reminds us in New Creation to engage with each other and our villages with encouragement, love and affection. If we are misrepresented, we need to remind people that our motives are true, that we act because God has called us.

In our emergent Rule of Life we have reminded ourselves to be still, to learn to find the contemplative space to hear the quiet nudging of the Holy Spirit. We also wish to embed the art of being encouraging.

Notes for Third Session (20th May)

I Thessalonians 2 v 17 to end chapter 3 (see attached 8 pages by commentator William Barclay)

The format will be the same as before....

- 1) Check in (say 'Hi' and catch up generally and Prayer...and offer encouragement)
- 2) Flight Time (Sharing insights about the rule of life (good habits for godly living), and looking at I Thessalonians 2 v 17 to end chapter 3)
- 3) Check Out (prayer)

a) We'll start by asking for general comments on the passages;

- 1) Is there something you wish to question?



- 2) Is there something about which you wish to comment?



- 3) Is there something to encourage us?



- 4) Is there something to warn us?



- 5) Is there something to help us in building a rule of life?



Specific questions

1 Thessalonians 2 v 13-16

Why do you think that Paul was so frank about the sins of the Jews?

1 Thessalonians 2 v 17-20

Do you agree with the commentator who calls this section ‘a classic of friendship?’ Why?

1 Thessalonians 2 v 13-16

What hallmarks of a true pastor do you particularly value here?

1 Thessalonians 2 v 13-16

Give a comment about this early blessing.

For those interested in some simple advice about creating a rule of life, check out <https://www.alonetogether.org.uk/shapingtheday>