

The Blog 3

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

The Third Session (20th May)

It was great to see 12 people online. We were Ian and Sonya Stocker, Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, Kirsty Bowles, Liz Chappell, Trevor and Olly, Frances Urwin, Matt Thomson, Howard Worsley and Kay Friend.

**However, we are experiencing problems with LifeSize and will attempt a zoom Bible study next week...same time, ie 7.30pm to 8.30pm on 27 May (if Zoom allows) ... Topic: Howard Worsley's Zoom Meeting
Time: May 27, 2020 07:30 PM London**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78217282156?pwd=Q1NzSjFCOCtJUy9xN29aVnRUNlkyUT09>

Meeting ID: 782 1728 2156

Password: 0XQJnk

We looked at I Thessalonians 2 v 17 to end chapter 3 (8 pages by commentator William Barclay were circulated in advance)

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 2 v 17 to end chapter 3)**
- 3) Check Out (prayer)**

- a) We started by asking for general comments on the passages using the serendipity Bible study approach (ie 5 road signs that focus attention);**

- 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

In response to the question ‘Why do you think that Paul was so frank about the sins of the Jews?’ we said,

Paul reminded the Thessalonians that the Jews killed Jesus and the prophets, persecuted Christians (as he had done) and were against people by wishing to keep the covenant to themselves. It was suggested that Paul was identifying that like the Thessalonians, he too knew about being persecuted.

We also considered how Paul was clear that what he had passed on was in fact the word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2 v 17-20

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

We noted the key insight from William Barclay was that the Thessalonians were his crown (he used the Greek word meaning a victor’s crown)

1 Thessalonians 3 v 1-10

In response to the question ‘What hallmarks of a true pastor do you particularly value here?’

We noted five key aspects of Paul’s care for the Thessalonians namely his affection, his anxiety, his help (in sending Timothy), his joy and his prayer for them.

1 Thessalonians 3 v 11-13

In response to the question ‘Give a comment about this early blessing’.

We enthused about these beautiful verses of blessing....

12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Notes for (forthcoming) Fourth Session (27th May)

Join us on zoom 7.30-8.30pm (note we may be cut off at 8.10pm and so I'll send another invitation at that point to continue the first bit)

Topic: Howard Worsley's Zoom Meeting
Time: May 27, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78217282156?pwd=Q1NzSjFCOCtJUy9xN29aVnRUNlkyUT09>

Meeting ID: 782 1728 2156
Password: 0XQJnk

Session 4

I Thessalonians 4:1-18 and 5: 1-11

(see 8 pages by commentator William Barclay p198-205)

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

- 1) Check in (say 'Hi' and catch up generally and Prayer and sing 'May the mind of Christ my saviour')**
- 2) Flight Time (Sharing insights about the rule of life (good habits for godly living), and looking at I Thessalonians 4:1-18 and 5: 1-11)**
- 3) Check Out (prayer)**

We'll sing (with help from Liz et al)

1. May the mind of Christ, my Savior,
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.
2. May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

3. May the peace of God my Father
Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing.
4. May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.
5. May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.
6. May His beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Again Ian will initially use the serendipity Bible study approach (ie 5 road signs that focus attention);

Is there something you wish to question?



Is there something about which you wish to comment?



Is there something to encourage us?



Is there something to warn us?



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



Specific questions

1) 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8

Consider why Paul focussed so strongly on purity (of body and of mind) and why this is so important to the Church

2) 1 Thessalonians 4: 9-12

What is the context for this warning from Paul? Why is Paul concerned about non activity (unemployment?)?

3) 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Discuss the early Church's concern about those who had died before Jesus' return .

4) 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Discuss what the early Church believed about the second coming. What are your thoughts/ beliefs about this?

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