

The Blog 4

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

The Fourth Session (27th May)

It was great to see 15 people online. We were Ian and Sonya Stocker, Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, Liz Chappell, Trevor and Olly and family, Frances Urwin, Matt Thomson, Howard Worsley, Kay Friend, David Kemp, Beth Ashton-Hilton and Margaret Hamilton.

After our teething difficulties with LifeSize we were more successful with zoom.

Howard hosted and Ian led to Bible discussion on

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

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

The format was the same as before....

- 1) Check in (saying 'Hi' and catch up generally and Prayer and sing 'May the mind of Christ my saviour'), hosted by HW**
- 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), led by IS**
- 3) Check Out (prayer)**

At the beginning we were led by the lads singing;

- 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.

Ian used the general serendipity Bible study approach (ie 5 road signs that focus attention) and we also reflected more specifically;

Specific questions

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8

Paul focussed very strongly on sexual purity (of body and of mind) and this was (and still is) so important to the Church in terms of integrity.

- 2) 1 Thessalonians 4: 9-12

Paul concerned about non activity (unemployment) as early believers 'shut up shop' and wait for Christ to appear.

The key text impacting us was,

'We urge you beloved, to live quietly, to mind your own business and work with your hands, as we directed you ' (1 Thess 4 v 11)

- 3) 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 and 5:1-11

We discussed the early Church's concern about those who had died before Jesus' return and what the early Church believed about the second coming.

Next Week at

The Fifth Session (3rd June), we'll look at

1 Thessalonians 5 v 12-28 (Advice to a Church)

Howard Worsley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: My Meeting

Time: Jun 3, 2020 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78045047293?pwd=dFMvamxRaW1WYlhxZHovUk1POWo4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 780 4504 7293

Password: 5biT4X

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?



After checking in, we'll say together the Methodist Covenant Prayer as an encouragement as to how we shape our lives.

I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you,
exalted for you,
or brought low for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty,
let me have all things,
let me have nothing:
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.
And now, glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

The text today is shorter but somehow more loaded with advice to us in our situation. (see (only) 3 pages by commentator William Barclay p206-208)

- **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)**

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

**The following Week at
The Sixth Session (10th June), we'll review our
rules of life and see what commonality we
have.**

**This could be the beginning of 'The Rule of St
Congar' (ie a rule that we all work with through
lockdown and onwards)**

We'll also consider how to proceed.