

## **The Blog 7**

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

**At the Seventh Session (17th June) we continued to reflect on how we might develop a communal Rule of Life that maps our life together in lockdown and also began reading the book of Acts together.**

It was great to see 14 people online. We were Ian and Sonya Stocker, Nick and Sarah Jarrett-Kerr, Frances Urwin, Matt Thomson, Howard Worsley, Kay Friend, Beth Ashton-Hilton, Jenny and Baz Nottage, Avril Chadwick, Wendy Reakes and Kirsty Bowles.

Howard initially welcomed and hosted by

- 1) Checking in (saying 'Hi' and catch up generally and reflecting on previous week 10 June)
- 2) Flight Time (Sharing insights about the rule of life (good habits for godly living), and looking at Acts 1 and 2), led by HW (shared out following week...I had attached a few pages from RP Martin's commentary to those who had time to read ahead.)
- 3) Check Out (prayer)

My verse of the week from last week's daily reading the Bible was Psalm 32 v 10..

**'Be not like the horse and mule which have no understanding, Whose mouths must be held by bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you,'**

*This spoke to me about how we are to develop a rule of life that is based on love and spiritual desire, not on the law.*

In our study time we continued to use the signpost formula below...

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?



## General Comments

### V 1-11

The group expressed the increased business that came with a lifting of lockdown. For many the good habits of an emerging rule of life have been put under strain but also for some there was a new sense of encountering God.

We read

- 1) Acts 1v 1-11 noting that Luke addressed Acts to Theophilus (Lover of God) as he had his first book (the gospel of Luke). Theophilus might have been an actual character known to Luke but was more likely an everymen figure...Luke is writing to the new Christian church as it emerges.

Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles as a bridging book between the Gospels and the letters (of Paul, Peter and John) that detail a Church community being set up. He wanted to record accurately how the Church grew and he did so from the sources available to him featuring Stephen, Saul's conversion, and Paul's three missionary journeys (he joined in on the second journey where he appears in the narrative in the first person). The book can be dated between AD 64 and AD 66 (between Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome (AD 64) and Paul's martyrdom (AD 66-8).

This first section (v 1-11) focussed on the importance of the Holy Spirit coming in power if what is to follow will take place

- 2) Acts 1 v 12- 26 was not read out but noted (the appointment of Matthias to replace Judas as 'one of the 12')
- 3) Acts 2 v 1-4 and v 22-40 was read and we re-visited Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit through wind and fire, when everyone heard in their own language and when people repented and turned back to God. The group shared their experiences very movingly of when they had encountered God's Spirit in their lives.

Next Week, 24<sup>th</sup> June we'll meet again at

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

Meeting ID: 817 6486 8391

**And we will study (facilitated by Wendy Reakes)**

- 1) Acts 2 v 42- 47 (some huge hints about communal rule of life here)**
- 2) Acts 3 (whole chapter) and**
- 3) Acts 4 v 23-31**

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

- 4) Check in (saying 'Hi' and catch up generally and reflecting on previous week 17 June) hosted by HW**
- 5) Flight Time (Sharing insights about the rule of life (good habits for godly living), and looking at Acts 1 and 2), led by Wendy Reakes (...I attach a few pages from RP Martin's commentary to those who have time to read ahead.)**
- 6) Check Out (prayer)**

**Stay in peace**

**Howard**