

October 25 | Sunday

The Latter Years

Romans 13:11-12



26 | Mon – “God was eminently present...” | Read 2 Chronicles 6:19-21, 40-42

John Wesley was 75 when he held the first service in the new City Road Chapel in London in 1778. He preached, using part of Solomon’s prayer of dedication for the new Temple (see 2 Chronicles above). Solomon’s prayer reminds us that the value is not in the external beauty of the building but in God being present there. What do you focus on when you go into a church building?

27 | Tue – “Diffuse the religion of love” | Read Romans 13:8-14, 1 John 4:11-16

When Wesley laid the foundation of City Road Chapel, he urged those present “...let us, with all diligence, diffuse the religion of love among all we [interact] with.” People often think that being a Christian makes you judgemental and unloving. Paul and the apostle John disagreed, saying that God is love and we are like him when we love. How has knowing Jesus made you a more loving person?

28 | Wed – “Be a good steward” | Read Luke 9:23-26

Early Methodists’ faith led them to work hard, to be honest and trustworthy, and to avoid squandering money on gambling or drinking or other things. His advice was: gain all you can and save all you can SO you will be able to give all you can. How are you doing? Are you more generous with your material possessions now than you were a year ago?

29 | Thu – “To clothe them that need it most” | Read Matt. 25:19-23

When Wesley was 81, he spent several days that winter walking through the town, begging for “200 pounds in order to clothe those who needed it most.” In what ways do those around us need to be “clothed” either physically, emotionally or spiritually? Are we willing to work hard to see that those in great need receive help? And give as well?

30 | Fri – “Fortify us against the fear of death” | Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Paul reminded the Corinthians that through Jesus’ resurrection “death has been swallowed up in victory.” Wesley believed this and taught Methodist to die a “good” death, free from fear, facing the end with “calm assurance.” How can focusing on the reality of resurrection lead you toward that “calm assurance”? How can this truth ease some of the pain of separation when we lose someone we love?

31 | Sat – “I will sing praises...as long as I live.” | Read Psalms 146:1-2,5-10

John Wesley died on Mar. 2, 1791 just short of 88 years. As his life ebbed away, he spoke these words, “The best of all is, God is with us,” and began to sing a hymn based on Psalm 146. He modeled the “good death” he had preached about. Do your hopes rely on your own abilities, accomplishments, or material possessions OR on the God that the psalmist and John Wesley knew? Will you choose to praise Him as long as you have breath?

November 1 | Sun – Journey through the Valley of the Shadow | Read Psalm 23:4



Hastings United Methodist Church | *Adventure by the Park*