

October 11| Sunday
Preaching and Pursuing Grace
Ephesians 2:8-10



12 | Mon – “...not permitted to preach...” | Read John 16:1-4; Matthew 5:10-12
When John Wesley returned to his hometown, he was not permitted to preach in the church building so he preached in the cemetery next to it. Those who fought him claimed their hatred grew out of devotion to God. How can your love for God keep you open for needed changes, rather than clinging to more comfortable personal preferences?

13 | Tue – “Christ died for all” | Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-15
Wesley concluded from these verses that Christ died for all, not just for the “elect” as many were preaching. He believed that God gives each of us the freedom to choose our own eternal fate. Paul wrote “...so we try to persuade people.” What difference do you see between trying to persuade others and trying to force them to believe as you do?

14 | Wed – “The Rules of the Society” | Read Psalms 119:1-16
John Wesley was branded as an agitator because he did use unusual ways to reach people. In actuality, he was a disciplined man. One characteristic of the “societies” he organized was that each member would follow agreed-upon rules. Bishop Rueben Job paraphrased the three General Rules as “do no harm,” “do all the good you can,” and “stay in love with God.” Imagine a world where everyone lived like this. What could you do today to more closely follow these guidelines in your own life?

15 | Thu – “No one misses...” | Read John 15:9-17
After visiting a Methodist ‘band’ of coal miners, Wesley described their commitment to God and each other as a model. In verse 9 Jesus started his teaching by setting love as the standard. Love breeds commitment; the more we love God, and the more we love people, the more we are committed to them. One of the greatest definition of love is found in verse 13. How could you ‘lay down your life’ today for those you love?

16 | Fri – “Sing” | Read Psalms 149:1-5
Charles Wesley, John’s brother, was one of the most prolific hymn writers, with over 6,000 to his name. Worship was highly valued by the early Methodists. Do you praise God by singing in the shower, in the car, at church, or with karaoke? Even if you can’t carry a melody, you are still ‘making a joyful noise to the Lord’ and it blesses him, especially when it is born out of a thankful heart. What is on your list of blessings to sing about?

17 | Sat – “Sing spiritually” | Read Ephesians 5:15-21
John must have been musical too because he gave some specific directions about singing. Paraphrasing here: don’t be dead about it, be enthusiastic but don’t try to out-sing others, not too fast or too slow. His most important advice: “...sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself or anyone else.” Today is Saturday. Ask God to fill you with his Spirit as you worship this weekend.

October 18 | Sun – Sanctification: Perfected in Love | Read James 2:14-18

