



Bible Challenge

Week of August 6th

The Bible Challenge - Week of August 6

This week brings three new books: the letters to the Philippians and Colossians in the New Testament, and the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old. Most scholars agree that Paul did write the letter to the Philippians, and that he wanted them to stand united in the face of divisions from both outside and inside the church. Colossians was probably written by someone who knew Paul, if Paul did not write it himself. Like many of Paul's letters, Colossians addresses the challenges of a community of faith which seem to be following false teaching. In both of these letters, you may find references to "hymns," passages which modern scholars suspect may have been songs in the Church during the time that Paul was writing, which the letters quote. He quotes them for the same reason we may quote songs today: they are familiar, and say what needs to be said in a way that ordinary words cannot.

Ecclesiastes (or Qoheleth, as it is called in some Bibles) represents an opposing view to that presented in Proverbs. Where one can imagine a parent or grandparent telling a young person some of the proverbs, in the hope that s/he might apply the knowledge and become healthy, wealthy and wise; the book of Ecclesiastes sounds more like a more cynical relative saying, "pshaw. There are no guarantees in life." Again, this book really collects sayings, and therefore doesn't have much of a plot, a sense of unity, or a strong sense of God's teaching or guidance. Rather, it represents the views of the people.

Here is this week's reading schedule:

Monday: Proverbs 23-25; Psalm 17; Philippians 1

Tuesday: Proverbs 26-28; Psalm 18; Philippians 2

Wednesday: Proverbs 29-31; Psalm 19; Philippians 3

Thursday: Ecclesiastes 1-3; Psalm 20; Philippians 4

Friday: Ecclesiastes 4-6; Psalm 21; Colossians 1

Saturday: Ecclesiastes 7-9; Psalm 22; Colossians 2

Sunday: See you in Church!