



**October 4 | Sunday**

**A Crisis of Faith**

Romans 4:3-5 and 5:1-2b

**05 | Mon – “I...was never myself converted.”** | Read Galatians 2:16-21

John Wesley tried to be holy and outwardly he succeeded. Yet, after two hard years as a missionary in the colony of Georgia, he wrote “What have I learned myself? Why...that I who went to America to convert others was never myself converted to God.” Paul was very confident in his own religious credentials until he realized he could never be holy. What is your experience? What awakens you to the need for God’s redeeming love?

**06 | Tue – “I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for my salvation.”** | Read Romans 3:9-28

The struggle in Wesley’s heart led him to be open to the gospel of God’s grace. He describes the moment when, hearing Martin Luther’s preface to Roman being read, his heart was strangely warmed and he knew that he trusted in Christ alone, not in his own good works, for salvation. When did this great truth first warm your heart? Does it still?

**07 | Wed – “An assurance was given me.”** | Read 1 John 5:10-13

Wesley recorded, “An assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.” *The Message* version of 1 John 5 describes *assurance* as “*knowing beyond the shadow of a doubt that you have eternal life.*” Do you have that kind of assurance? If not, what is a possible obstacle?

**08 | Thu – “I know my commission.”** | Read 1 Timothy 2:2-6 and Luke 24:44-49

Coming from a church that did not do a good job of touching ordinary people’s lives, Wesley took the good news to those who would never darken the door of a church. Of preaching outdoors, he said, “Field preaching is a cross to me but I know my commission and see no other way of ‘preaching the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15) Ask God to help you see everyone you know, however unlikely, as a potential citizen of heaven.

**09 | Fri – “Are not their souls also precious?”** | Read Titus 2:11-15

In the class-conscious England of Wesley’s day, many people thought the Christian faith was only for ‘proper’ people. Wesley, however, preached to those not acceptable in polite society, saying, “Are not their souls also precious?” Titus 2:11 sums up this essential truth: God’s salvation is for everyone. In verse 15, Paul gives Titus the task to ‘talk about these things’ and it is ours too. What opportunities lie ahead for you?

**10 | Sat – “I submitted...and proclaimed in the highways.”** | Read Luke 14:12-24

Jesus lived among religious people who recoiled from being in God’s kingdom with ‘sinners’ (those who are not as good as I am). He told the story of a king who invited common street people to a royal banquet. Do we sometimes see ourselves as more spiritual than others? Those who lie, steal, cheat, commit adultery? What about the respectable sins we often try to hide, like pride, impatience, anger and judgmentalism? When we submit to Jesus and see ourselves as sinners being redeemed, then we can honestly share that good news with anyone, no matter their ‘station’ in life.

**October 11 | Sun – Preaching and Pursuing Grace** | Read Ephesians 2:8-10



**Hastings United Methodist Church | *Adventure by the Park***