

2020 Annual Mennonite Bible Study Series presents

Paul, prison, and the justice of God

a series of presentations on Paul and the early church



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January 10-12, 2020

at Bethel Mennonite Church
Mountain Lake, MN

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Sponsored by First Mennonite and
Bethel Mennonite Churches*

35th ANNUAL MENNONITE BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Paul, Prison, and the Justice of God

Dr. Ryan Schellenberg, speaker

Friday evening · January 10 · 7:00 pm

Human Justice and Divine Justice

We begin by exploring how conceptions of human justice and of divine justice influence each other and overlap, both in Paul's world and in our own — and sometimes with unanticipated results.

Saturday morning · January 11 · 9:00 – 11:30 am

Prison Then and Now

Prison has always hit some segments of society harder than others. We consider what Libanius of Antioch, a fourth-century advocate for prisoners, might say if confronted with the American project of mass incarceration.

Paul the Prisoner

Everyone knows that Paul spent time in chains. But why did he end up there? And what does this tell us about where Paul and other early believers fit on the broader landscape of the early Roman Empire?

Saturday evening · January 11 · 7:00 pm

Justification by Faith

Although we seldom think of it as relevant to issues of crime and punishment, Paul has a lot to say about the nature of justice — God's justice, in particular, and how it “justifies” human offenders. Could Paul's vision of divine justice as an unmerited gift reshape the way we think about human justice too?

Sunday morning worship service · January 12 · 10:30 am

The Letter kills, but the Spirit gives life

Sunday evening · January 12 · 7:00 pm

Early Christian Resources for Confronting Mass Incarceration

The early Christians worked tirelessly to care and advocate for prisoners — at first for fellow Christians, imprisoned for their faith, and in later centuries for all prisoners. How can the church today be faithful to this ancient Christian legacy?