

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Serving-In View of the End”

1 Peter 4:10-11

JUNE 3 – JUNE 9, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY –This week as we return to **1 Peter** we come to **verses 10-11**. If you remember back a couple weeks ago we studied how we as believers are to be “Living-In View of the End” and now we are going to see how we are to be “Serving” with that same view toward the “end of all things”. Read our text: **1 Peter 4:7-11**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week and to challenge you and change you to serve Him more earnestly.

MONDAY –Remember that the exhortations Peter is giving us on how to live and serve as believers in this present life are given in light of the return of Jesus Christ and “the end of all things”. Peter is saying that this life as we know it will be consummated, it will come to an end, and the goal will be reached and realized for us as children of God. But that understanding should **not** motivate us to become lazy as we “sit and wait” nor should it cause us to be reckless and out of control in our zealotry. The fact that the “end of all things is at hand” should drive us to live as Peter has instructed; being “serious and watchful in our prayers...having fervent love for one another...and being hospitable to one another”. And now as we will see in more detail we are to serve one another as we wait the “end”. And we are to do all this for God’s glory. Read **James 5:7-9**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Pray that God would help you to keep an eternal perspective and to understand as James said, “The Judge is at the door”.

TUESDAY – In **verse 10** Peter begins to elaborate on the fact of our serving for God’s glory as we live this life. Notice the NKJV uses the word “minister”. The Greek word is diakoneo which among other things means “be a servant, to wait upon, to minister to one”. This entire thought process of serving others and ministering flies in the face of all the worldly wisdom of our age. We are told in every way imaginable that the world

“revolves around us”. The Bible speaks loud and clear that life is to be lived first for God’s glory in all things and then for others as we minister to their needs (primarily their spiritual needs as we give the gospel message of reconciliation through Jesus Christ and then also to material needs of all kinds). I mentioned we serve for God first of all, later in the week we will see how all we do as “ministers” (servants) is actually done for God and His glory. Read **Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Dear God: help me to love You with all my heart, soul, and strength; and may I love others as myself.

WEDNESDAY –We are told at the outset of **verse 10** that as far as believers are concerned, “*each one has received a gift*”. These “*gifts*” are what we are to be first and foremost “*ministering*” to one another. This verse gives us great insight into “*spiritual gifts*”. We see that we are to use them as “*good stewards*” which means we actually don’t own our gifts; rather they are given us by God Himself to help in the managing of His church. Peter elaborates by saying that we are stewards of “*the manifold grace of God*”. This phrase emphasizes the vastness and broad scope and variety in both the giving and the design of these gifts by God. Lord willing we will cover this in more detail this Lord’s Day. So much more needs to be said here but for now understand that God gives to all true believers spiritual gifts to build up, edify, and help complete and mature the growth of the body of Christ for His Glory. Read **Romans 12:3-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: Dear God, help me to realize that as a believer You have given me gifts to be used for serving others and glorifying You. May I strive to exercise this gift to the praise of You the glorious, gracious giver.

THURSDAY –In **verse 11** Peter begins to define that there are two groups or categories of gifts; they are speaking gifts and serving gifts. If you read the two passages from yesterday the distinctions are very clear of these two groups. Today we focus on the “*speaking*” gifts and as Peter says, “*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God*”. Those who have gifts of speaking such as preaching, teaching, wisdom and knowledge are to speak or communicate God’s Word and wisdom rather than human or their own wisdom and words. The word translated “*oracles*” is *logion* in Greek and means utterances or the very words from God’s mouth. This term is used elsewhere in the Bible to refer to the very words of Scripture.

We find later in the verse that those gifted to speak are gifted by “*the ability that God supplies*”. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Ephesians 4:29**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: If God has gifted you to speak ask Him to help you always speak His words and as you listen to those gifted to communicate His message ask Him to help you receive it properly.

FRIDAY –Peter then addresses those who are gifted to “*minister*” or serve and he tells them to serve with “*the ability which God supplies*”. Both of these exhortations are to help us as believers understand that true service to God is service that follows and adheres to God’s character as revealed in Holy Scripture. No one is serving God properly who is doing so out of selfish or self-centered motives. You may even be gifted as a believer yet be trying to use your gift in your own wisdom and power which will prove fruitless. We must do all things by the “*ability that God supplies*” as we will see in more detail tomorrow. Read **Philippians 2:3-4, Colossians 3:22-25**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God please help me to serve not with “eyeservice” looking to men and their applause, but to You from a pure heart of love.

SATURDAY –Peter sums up the goal of all service and ministry that is done by believers when he says, “*that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ...*” We must remember that true service to God is service that honors Him. What a privilege to honor God by serving Him according to the giftedness He has bestowed upon us! We see from the text that all glory belongs to the Holy Trinity and as Jesus is glorified and obeyed God is glorified as well since they are One. I would ask you to meditate on this awesome reality that we can honor God in our service—the God “*to whom belong the glory...dominion forever...*” Read **Psalms 104:31, 113:1-6, John 1:14**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: God, to You be eternal glory & praise both now and forever. Help me to live and serve You as You supply the ability.