

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

*“The Apostle’s Farewell”*

**1 Peter 5:12-14**

**SEPTEMBER 16 –22, 2007**

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This week we will come to the end of the letter of **1 Peter**. The Apostle Peter, under the inspiration of The Holy Spirit has written a letter full of great doctrinal truth and very practical instruction. It has been our great pleasure to go verse by verse through this book since June of 2006. Now we look at the final verses in this wonderful Epistle to see what parting words Peter has for his readers. Read: **1 Peter 5:12-14**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** –We see in **verse 12** that Peter apparently had “*Sylvanus*” (Silas) write down his words as he dictated them to him and he is also the man who probably saw to the distribution of this letter to its first recipients. Silas was the man who traveled extensively with The Apostle Paul on his journeys. We see Peter refers to him as “*our faithful brother...*” This word “*faithful*” conveys the thought of a person who is faithful in his work and dealings, able to be trusted, and one that can be relied on. We could stay right here on this point alone and we wouldn’t be wasting our time. How in need we are of “*faithful*” brothers. How faithful are you to God, His church, and those who are your brothers and sisters in Christ? It is also such an amazing thing to ponder the fact that all **TRUE** Christians are in the very same family; as close as siblings. Read **Matthew 24:45-51, 1 Corinthians 4:2, 17**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: O God, help me to not just “know all the facts” about You and Your Word but to prove in my life that I’m “faithful”.*

**TUESDAY** –Peter not only informs his readers that he wrote to them through his amanuensis (secretary) “*Sylvanus, our faithful brother...*” but he explains two things that he set out to accomplish in this letter. He says that he was “*exhorting and testifying...*” Peter’s first Epistle was one in which he gave exhortation and testified to the “*true grace of God...*”

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						

W @ e k l y P r a y @ J o u r n a l

M a t t h e w 6: 9-13

Peter is here giving claim that what he has written was Divine truth inspired by The Holy Spirit, for it “*is*” (einai-“to be”) the truth of the gospel of God’s grace. He is giving testimony to the fact that what has been recorded was not his word but God’s Word. This is addressed earlier in this letter as well as in his second Epistle where he affirms the Divine inspiration of the Old Testament Scriptures. Peter is telling us what we know to be true as believers; that we can be sure the Scripture is God speaking. Read **1 Peter 1:23, 2 Peter 1:20-21, 3:1-2**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Thank God today that He has spoken to us authoritatively through His Word both “written” and “incarnate” (Jesus).*

**WEDNESDAY** –It is because of this surety that we spoke of yesterday, namely that this letter “*is the true grace of God*” that Peter finishes the sentence in **verse 12** with the words “...*in which you stand*”. The oldest manuscripts read imperatively, as a command, “*Stand ye*” and this is indicated by other translations such as the NAS which reads, “*Stand firm in it*”! This actually restates and reaffirms what Peter said in **verse 9** when he told us to “*resist...*” Satan. We do this by staying and standing true to the faith. Read **Romans 5:1-2, 1 Corinthians 15:1, Jude 3**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Praise God today for the faith once delivered to the saints and ask Him to help you to stand firm in it without wavering.*

**THURSDAY** –In **verse 13-14** Peter continues his “farewell” by sending his love just as we would in signing off a letter to loved ones. He specifically says to the readers that, “*She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you*”. The Scriptures often refer to “*Babylon*” and most people are familiar with its references to the world’s system which opposes Christ finally finding its apex in the city found in the great tribulation under the rule of antichrist (**Revelation 18**). Some scholars believe that Peter is referring to the city of Rome from where they believe he is writing. His reference to “*She* who is in Babylon” is a reference to the believers who reside where he writes and they are called “*elect with you*”. There are various opinions as to why Peter would use the term “*Babylon*” for Rome; one of which is that he didn’t want to expose the Christians there to even more suffering if his letter fell into the wrong hands as it was written from the Capitol city itself. We will cover this more this Lord’s Day, and look at some other possibilities surrounding “*Babylon*”. Read **2 John**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Thank God for the wonderful reality that we as “elect” children of His have unity and are in the same family with Almighty God as our Father through the saving work of Jesus for us.*

**FRIDAY** –Peter continues this familial theme when he speaks of “*Mark my son*”. Just as Timothy was Paul’s “son in the faith” here we find the same thing true of The Apostle Peter and John Mark. This Mark was the man who according to tradition was aided in writing his gospel account of Jesus’ life by Peter. As he nears the close of the letter Peter says, “*Greet one another with a kiss of love*”. Much has been said concerning the “*kiss of love*” but as we look at Scripture and church tradition we find this customary outward sign of affection was anything but sensual or sinful; rather it was as it is stated in Romans a “*holy*” kiss. Our true affection should be seen for one another as believers and a greeting which expresses unfeigned, holy Christian love is what Peter is here speaking of (more on this tomorrow). Read **Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:26**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Ask God to help you be a true, loving member of the family of God understanding that our actions in discourse and dialogue make up only a small fraction of treating one another with love.*

**SATURDAY** –Continuing on the “*kiss of love*”, as I said in yesterday’s prayer we must understand that God is not saying the only way we express love is by outward signs of affection. We must remember this is a “*holy*” kiss rooted in purity, holiness, and respect which are to govern our actions to those in the family of God. We will touch on this more Lord willing in tomorrow’s lesson but suffice to say today is that many “*kisses*” have been given which were anything but true, sincere expressions of love (**Luke 22:47-48**). Peter ends up this Epistle by saying, “*Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen*”. All who are “*in Christ*” or are “*true Christians*” are here the beneficiaries of Peter’s blessing of peace. Read and meditate on **Ephesians 6:23-24**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer:* *God, we thank You for the peace that is ours available only through the gift and work of our Savior Jesus Christ.*