



Scripture for the week of September 6: 1 Peter 4:11-19

“11If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

12Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18And, ‘If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?’ 19So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

Sunday, September 6:

Action: Read above Scripture slowly (even if it is very familiar to you).

Questions to Ponder: What stood out for you as you read this Scripture? What do you hope to be reminded of as you focus on this Scripture this week? How do you do at praising God in all things, even our troubling times?

Prayer: Lord, there is so much in this Scripture of how I should be. Help me to hear how You desire me to change. In times of suffering, help me to commit myself to You and continue to do good.

Monday, September 7:

Action: Read 1 Peter 4:11 “If anyone speaks they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

Questions to Ponder: What does your speech consist of? Are they very words of God? Do you serve with the very strength God provides? What do you do that you think gives praise to God through Jesus? Is it done in all of your circumstances? Do you think it is possible to give praise in all circumstances?

Prayer: God, there are many things that I do, that do not give praise to You. Show me a better way Lord. Help me to be more like You in my speech and service.

Tuesday September 8:

Action: Read 1 Peter 4:12-13 “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

Questions to Ponder: Did you know that in the time of this Scripture writing, Christians were smeared with pitch and would be lit up to burn in Nero’s garden? What testing have you experienced regarding your faith? Would you go through any testing to stand firm in what you believe? Would you rejoice as you participate in these sufferings?

Prayer: Lord, give me the strength to stand up for my beliefs no matter what people say or do. Although I don’t want to suffer, if it means I must to draw closer to You, then use me in any way You desire to accomplish this. Help me to get through this testing of pandemic with grace and compassion. I do desire to show Jesus to others as I walk through this time.

Wednesday, September 9:

Action: Read 1 Peter 4:14-16 “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”

Questions to Ponder: Have you ever felt like you have suffered because you are a Christian? If not, how do you think you would respond? Would you praise God? Or do you find it difficult to praise God when things are difficult? Do you desire to get to a point where you could easily say to God “I will praise You when I suffer.”?

Prayer: Father God, Just thinking about suffering as a Christian is difficult to do. But I want to be the type of person that will accept anything You place in my way and to continue to praise You when difficulties strike. Help me to recognize You in the midst of this difficulties so that I can walk through them with grace.

Thursday, September 10:

Action: Read 1 Peter 4:17: “For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

Questions to Ponder: How much thought have you given to your judgment by God? How about the judgment of others who do not believe? Does this make you want to tell others that a judgment will be coming for them? Do you believe that those in God’s household will be judged less severely than those who are not? What do you think about this?

Prayer: Lord, there are people I care about who will be judged because they do not know You. I always think that I have plenty of time to convince them of who You are, but am beginning to realize that time is short. Show me the ones You desire for me to talk to about You.

Friday, September 11:

Action: Read 1 Peter 4:18: “And, ‘If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?’”

Questions to Ponder: What will become of the ungodly and the sinner if they do acknowledge Jesus as their Lord and forgiver of sins? As you think of what may become of them, do you feel the urgency to reach out to others and talk to them about Jesus? Isn’t it important to share with others about the hope that we have?

Prayer: Jesus, I struggle with sharing about You and Your love for me with others. Yet, if I think about it, don’t people desire to hear that they are loved? Give me the boldness I need to share Your word with others.

Saturday, September 12:

Action: Read 1 Peter 4:19: “So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

Questions to Ponder: Are you willing to commit yourself to your faithful Creator and to continue to do good? Is it enough to show others by example what you believe rather than talk to them? Is your life telling the gospel story? Do you think it is important to get your life on the right track before you talk to others about what you believe?

Prayer: Lord God, I know that I do not always commit myself to You and do good all the time. I struggle with both of these because of all the things that can distract me from seeking You to see what good You desire for me to accomplish. Help me to open my eyes and ears to You so that I am constantly in tune with what You are calling me to do.