

(9) Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace. Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies --- in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen!

(12) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

(15) But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name! For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?! And, (Proverbs 11:31)

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

(19) Therefore, let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Think on these things:

- 1) Is it possible to serve Christ by serving others in a wrongful spirit? How is that reported here (v.9)?

- 2) V.10 speaks of God’s varied “grace” manifest as “gifts” He gives us. Consider 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11, 14-17, and 26-30. What is your gift, and how are you using it today? According to vs.10-11, what are the three purposes of God giving gifts to His people?

- 3) What does Peter caution us not to be surprised by? What is the purpose of this/these (v.12)? Is this unexpected or to be expected? When will it all “be worth it”? See also James 1:2-4.

4) Can you recall --- and share --- a time when you were insulted or ridiculed because of your faith in Christ?

5) We covered in a previous 1 Peter lesson that there is no blessing when we suffer for doing wrong. V.15 speaks of three specific sins, and the all-encompassing "evildoer." What is the last specific sin, and does it surprise you? This can be an easy trap.

6) If you suffer as a Christian, what are you told to do (v.16)?

7) Judgment is always an interesting topic. Judgment for Christians is NOT the same as judgment for non-Christians,
> Matthew 24-25 Tribulation Judgment before the 1,000-year Messianic Reign on Earth,
> Revelation 20:11-15 Final World Judgment after Messiah's reign and Satan's release
How will Jesus judge Christians (1 Corinthians 3:1-15)?

8) Was hell created for the bad, unsaved people of this world? See Matthew 25:41.

9) How is a Christian saved? See John 3:16-17, Acts 16:30-31, and Ephesians 2:8-9

10) When you are under pressures, especially for being a person of faith under persecution, what does v.19 counsel us to do?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: