



Week 24 - February 24th

Serving Christ – A Home That Reflects God

Peter Marshall, former chaplain of the United States Senate, once wrote this lovely description of a home:

“I was privileged, in the spring, to visit in a home that was to me-and I am sure to the occupants-a little bit of Heaven. There was beauty there. There was a keen appreciation of the finer things of life, and an atmosphere in which it was impossible to keep from thinking about God.

The room was bright and white and clean, as well as cozy. There were many windows. Flowers were blooming in pots and vases, adding their fragrance and beauty. Books lined one wall-good books-inspiring and instructive-good books-good friends. Three bird cages hung in the brightness and color of this beautiful sanctuary, and the songsters voiced their appreciation by singing as if their little throats would burst.

Nature’s music, nature’s beauty-nature’s peace....It seemed to me a kind of Paradise that had wandered down, an enchanted oasis-home.”

Source: “A Woman after God’s Own Heart” by Elizabeth George

Wouldn’t that be great if all of our homes represented a “little bit of heaven.” Can you imagine it being impossible for a guest to keep from thinking of God while in your home? Serving God begins in the home. Outside of the workplace, our home is the place we spend the majority of our time. Our “home” affects our physical, psychological and even our spiritual state. The Bible instructs us to build our homes on the foundation of God. Let’s take a closer look at what this means...

Scripture

Read Matthew 6:19-24, Deuteronomy 6:4-8, Deuteronomy 11:18-20

Discovery Questions

1. What we treasure in life reflects our priorities. Verse 19 describes what we should not store up on earth. What are examples of these treasures? What would a home that prioritizes earthly treasures look like (try to look beyond just the material things and dig deeper)?
2. Verse 20 describes another type of treasure, what is it? Provide examples of these heavenly treasures. What would a home that practices storing up heavenly treasures look like?
3. One way to serve God is to know and obey his commandments. Re-read Deuteronomy 6:4-8 and write down the many ways you can do this.
4. Eternal truths are most effectively learned in the home. We can teach, practice and live them out. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-20. What is one central theme you can pull from these verses?

Journaling

Which verse spoke most powerfully to me? Why?

Prayer: Spend some time in prayer conversing with your God. Use the following ideas as a potential guide to your prayer time.

- Dear Precious Jesus, I want You to permeate my home. Please leave Your prints all over it. Provide and lead me to ways in which I can build a home that reflects You.
- Heavenly Father, I want my home to have a heart of service. Teach me Your ways and show me how I can serve You and serve others. Give me the desire and motivation to do so.
- Father God, in a world that so values material things, please help me to remain focused on what really matters... heavenly treasures. Let those be the desires of my heart and a reflection of my home.