

TRIUMPH

“Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24)

“He That Is Not Against Us Is On Our Part”

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Many would have us believe that the words spoken by Jesus in Luke 9:49-50 and Mark 9:38-40 suggest that all churches, regardless of doctrine, belong to Christ. Let's consider Mark's account: *“And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbade him, because he follows not us. But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do power in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part.”*

There are several things to consider before we receive a clear picture of what went on and what Jesus meant in his statement - “He that is not against us is on our part.” The first thing to notice is the attitude of the apostles. Since Jesus hand picked these men for His ministry, they felt special and entitled to receive all glory and honor. But what these men didn't understand was, although they had been hand picked, it didn't suggest that they were “special” from all other people. The Bible teaches that *“all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23). Jesus chose among His 12 apostles, Judas Iscariot, who would later betray him for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16),

and impetuous and prejudiced Peter (Matt. 16:21-23; Gal. 2:11-14). So this in no way suggested these men were better than others, rather they were chosen to fulfill a role in Christ's kingdom.

Noting this, then it would make sense that God had chosen others to do his work as well. This is what is meant when Jesus said, *“...for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.”* In other words, these had the authority (i.e., “my name,” Col. 3:17) of God to do His will. This clearly suggests that these folks were in a right relationship with God. And in order to be in a right relationship with Him, His commandments needed to be kept (Jn. 8:31; 14:15), which means that these folks didn't teach and practice something different from Christ and Apostles (i.e., Eph. 4:4, “one faith”).

So *“he that is not against us is on our part”* suggests equality based on right doctrine (1 Tim. 1:10) and application of the same (1 Tim. 4:16), not differences or falsehoods (i.e., Gal. 1:6-10). May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship lunch will be next Sunday, December 14th, after morning service. The menu is potluck.

The new service opportunities sheets for the year 2015 are in the foyer. Members, please take time to volunteer your time, talents, and home for the various works of the church. We need your help to continue to make Shenandoah an active body of believers. Thanks.

The Sunny Glenn Children's Home is requesting canned chicken and tuna. They will be here December 9-11. As before, if you would like to make a donation to buy these items in bulk, please mark your check appropriately and either put it in the collection plate or give it to one of the elders. Thanks.

All are invited to the renewing of vows ceremony of Ronald and Vianey Garcia on January 3rd at 1:00 pm here at Shenandoah. A reception will follow. RSVP with Blanca Garcia.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is at the Rodriguez's house on December 12th. Kids are asked to bring a \$10 wrapped gift. Thank you.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adults will meet at Stephen and Belinda's residence on December 19th for their annual Christmas party. Please bring a \$20 wrapped gift. The menu is healthy potluck.

THE NEW INNOVATIONS OF THE CHURCH (5a)

Sister issues of musical instruments is manipulating the mouth to mimic the sound of instruments, hand clapping, and raising up of "holy hands" during the song service. There are some churches of Christ, who instead of going to the extreme of musical instruments, will try to lessen people's concerns by convincing themselves that vocal sounds (which mimic instruments) is Biblical, and that an "expression of praise" shown through hand clapping and raising of holy hands is an acceptable form of praise demonstration.

The argument for vocal musical imitation is through flawed reasoning. Proponents believe and have convinced themselves that making sounds with one's mouth and mimicking instruments of music doesn't violate Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16 because no instruments of music are ever used. But as was noticed last week, instruments of music are "without life" (1 Cor. 14:7) and do not serve to influence the intellect (reason) of man. If this is the case, then why would we attempt to mimic musical instruments with our mouths? What it is, as with musical instruments, is an appeal to our emotions (what makes me feel good), and emotions alone are incapable of traversing the maze of life (Pr. 14:12). Only the intellect through reasoning can do this (Isa. 1:18; Phil. 4:8). So it doesn't matter that the sounds come solely from the mouth, the point is the mouth was to be used as a

"sacrifice of praise...giving thanks to his name" (Heb. 13:15).

In conjunction with this, the argument for hand clapping and raising up "holy hands" during praise directed toward God is taken from Psalm 47:1 and 1 Timothy 2:8. The extension of the argument is, "We can't legislate the way people express themselves in praise to God!" But a careful review of the passage and extended argument reveals a distortion and falsehood. The context of Psalm 47 speaks of the excitement of God's people (Israel) as He conquered and subdued their enemies. Clapping and shouting (merely making noise) were natural expressions of joy for God's victory, but in verses 6 and 7 a shift from just making noise to intelligible speech is seen: "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding." The context in 1 Timothy 2:8 is dealing with a Christian's character, that before they come before God in prayer, their lives (i.e., hands, Jas. 4:9) must be pure and holy (cf. 1 Pet. 3:12).

In both instances a gross misinterpretation and application have been taken. Hand clapping and holy hands were not used in praise directed toward God. The word "praise" (*zamar*) suggests celebrating God through song, meaning the act of speaking (teaching and admonishing, Col. 3:16), which epitomes who God is - mind, thought, communication (Jn. 4:24; 1:1). May God be praised!

Bro. G. Rodriguez

WHAT SAITH THE LORD?

Nearly two thousand years ago an important question was raised before the Apostles after they had delivered the good news of Jesus's life, death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 2:21-36). The hearer's conscience were pricked of sinful conduct (2 Cor. 7: 10-11) and asked: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do* (in order to be saved)? (Acts 2:37). Without hesitation, Peter elevated his voice and proclaimed: "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

Upon hearing the words of Peter, the people obeyed. This demonstrated their belief in Christ (Jn. 8:24). Hence, they repented of sin and confessed allegiance to the name of Christ (Matt. 10:32-33). Afterwards, the people were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:41, cf. Mrk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The people's submission to the words of salvation granted them a relationship with God the Father by accessing citizenship into the church of Christ (Acts 2:47, cf. Matt. 16:18; Mrk. 9:1; Acts. 2:1-4). As a member of Christ's body (Acts 8:4) the people were then encouraged to live faithful unto death by conquering sin in their lives (Rev. 2:10; Rom. 6: 4-12; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8). We then await for the coming day in which all men shall be judged the word of God (Jn 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Will we be ready?

SHEPHERD'S CORNER

We Are To Trust The Lord

Abraham set us the great example of faith in God. The "father of the faithful" demonstrated his faith for us: "By faith Abraham when he was called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whither he went...By faith Abraham, being tried, offered up Isaac" (Heb. 11:8,17). When God called, Abraham went without even knowing where he was going. when God told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, he obeyed without question. That is the kind of faith we need. The great commandment is still the same: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God" (Deut. 6:5; Mk. 12:30).

"The great heroes of faith" (Heb. 11) trusted the Lord. Many times the Scriptures tell us that people "by faith" lived as God directed. We are called to "live by faith" (Rom. 1:17) and "walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7). Trusting the Lord means looking to Him for guidance, recognizing that, "The way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Do we really trust Him that much? The apostle Paul did: "Christ liveth in me. The life which I now live, I live in faith, faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Only through such trust in the Lord can we "prosper in a strange land."

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured unto you again" (Lk. 6:38).

Bro. Wayne Holmes

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

BISHOPS/SHEPHERDS/ELDERS

(1 Tim. 3: 1-6)

Brother Elwyn Hipp (830) 510-6311,
Brother Wayne Holmes (210) 696-8597

DEACON

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1
Tim. 3: 7-12)

Brother Raul Baltierra
(210) 843-9730

GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 1 Tim.
4:6; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

Brother Gabriel Rodriguez
(210)315-4453



December 7

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *M. Gibson*
 Song Leader: *J. Oakes*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; S. Hernandez; R. Baltierra Jr., G. Rodriguez*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; A. Maldonado*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, A. Maldonado; PM, J. Oakes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Juanita Mahan
 Richard Rodriguez
 Rina White
 Argelia (Janie's mother)
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Roberto Garcia
 Lorenza Bejarano
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)
 Anthony Harris Sr
 Ina Dial
 Isabel (Lynn's mother)
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Ashton Balyeat (needs a kidney transplant)

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes	Johna Dorries
Edna Wilks	Abigail Reyes
Lydia Cowan	George Jackson
Briana Nieves	Margie Hargrove
Sonny Cary	Mary Purkey
Elwyn Hipp	Graciola Anderson

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Mary Louese Hughes
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob

DEPLOYED:

James Braun (Nephew of Michael) (Navy).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES DECEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Empett
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Oakes
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Creek
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Creek
 Brother in charge of services:
J. Guillen

AM Theme:
 Remembering Why We Started
 PM Theme:
 Setting The church In Order

AM Sermon:
Maintenance

PM Sermon:
How Do We Effect Change?

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

December 3: W. Holmes
 December 10: G. Rodriguez
 December 17: M. dela Garza

FOR THE RECORD

NOVEMBER 30

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 44
 Sunday AM Worship 51
 Sunday PM Worship 24
 Wednesday Bible Study 40
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1586.50**

Weekly Bible Readers 4 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 Fax: (210) 696-5181

Church email Address:
shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday: Bible Study at 9:30 am; Worship at 10:30 am;
 Worship at 5:00 pm.
 Wednesday: Bible Study at 7:00 pm