

Shenandoah

church of Christ

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)

Waiting For A Sign?

Gabriel Rodriguez

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True Worship (1)

*Shepherd's
Corner:
Seeking After
God*

How many folks have we've contacted, or possibly have been guilty of this ourselves, who've sought a sign from the Lord to believe in Him? Jesus experienced this as recorded in Matthew 12:38, “*Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee*” (cf. Mark 8:11-12; Lk. 11:29-32). Jesus responded by saying, “*An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given...but the sign of the prophet Jonah...the repentance of the men of Nineveh...and the example of the queen of the south...who came to hear the wisdom of Solomon*” (Matt. 12: 39-42).

The point of Jesus was clear. Signs (*passages*) from the Old Testament Scriptures had already been given to prove that Jesus was who he claimed to be - the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matt. 16:14-17); therefore, no additional signs would be given. The problem was the people's unwillingness to accept facts of reality as it was consistent with the Scriptures. The examples of Jonah and the Queen of Sheba point to people who accepted the words of prophets without any additional confirmation. In other words, what they heard and saw made

sense and they accepted it as truth, which then led them to obey. The problem with those during the days of Jesus was their unwillingness to accept the words of God. Likewise, we have folks today who seek additional confirmation of God. They too seek and wait for a sign from above. As some atheists have said, “*Only if God would open up the heavens and talk to me, then would I believe!*” But unfortunately, that's not the way God works today. We have to use our mental faculties to discover God through signs already provided, namely nature (Rom. 1:19-20) and the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17). So when people say they're still waiting for a sign from God, they'll be waiting until Christ returns and by then it will be too late to believe and obey. The point is, the signs have already been given, we must be willing to accept it as it is consistent with reality, and simply obey. If we keep wanting more, none will be given. We must discover God through reason and logic, and if we're unwilling to do this, then we're unwilling to know God and be saved. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class will meet on April 26th and 4:00 pm. The Ladies will cover lesson 3 in their book and the men are still discussing the Minor Prophets.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for May. The elders are looking for a host family for May and June. If you're interested, please see Elwyn.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for April 24 at the home of the Gibsons. Festivities will begin at 7:00 pm. All our young and middle aged adults are encouraged to attend. The menu is potluck.

AREA NEWS

The Galena Park church of Christ is hosting a youth meeting/camping trip, April 25-26, for age groups 12-22 at Palmetto State Park. Brother Gabriel Rodriguez will be speaking on the topic: "Going Against the Tide." If anyone is interested in attending, please see Bro. Rodriguez. More information is in the foyer.

See bulletin board for announcements of area meetings.

TRUE WORSHIP (1)

Jesus said in John 4: 23-24, "*But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*"

Jesus made it very plain that the Father seeks "*true worshippers*" to worship Him. This claim showcases the opposite meaning, which is, the Father rejects "*false worshippers*" in worshipping Him. So this begs the question: What makes one a true or false worshipper?

Jesus answers this question by saying that a true worshipper is one that worships the Father in spirit and in truth. The word "*spirit*" (here in this context) means mind/intellect, and the word "*truth*" means God's blessed will (Jn. 17:17). So in other words, true worship **MUST** be intellectual and according to God's commandments. But what does this mean? It means that true worship affects the mind of man (makes him more intellectual), while oppositely false worship affects the emotions of man (make him more emotional).

So what we have here is a discussion as to what true worship ultimately is geared towards - making sure the mind of man remains strong and true unto God. But why? Because it is the mind that gets assaulted every day of the week, and when we come together to remember God, God desires that man's mind is strengthened and refocused on their mission in life. This is why every aspect of true worship deals with the mind of man - *prayer*

(refocuses the mind), *singing* (teaches the mind), *Lord's Supper* (remember the mind and character of Christ), *offering* (demonstrate through mind and action our thankfulness to God), and *preaching/teaching* (the mind is informed of God's word). When the mind is strengthened, then man is able to handle another week in the world, battling for his soul.

It's interesting to note that for many "*true worship*" is boring. Why? Because it deals with intellectualism, not emotionalism. And it is emotionalism what people seek after! But this type of worship is likened unto a drug addict, they want something that stimulates them physically and emotionally, and once they get that high, then they'll be looking for something bigger and better to accommodate their pleasure to induce their mind/body. But not so with true worship, it's geared to make us smarter.

Jesus further explained this in verse 24 when he said that God is a spirit, meaning God is MIND. And if God is MIND, then wouldn't it make sense that what we do and how we worship God must help our mind/intellect? The answer is yes! This is why when one studies the Scriptures, he or she will come to identify the correct forms of true worship, those acts which seek to stimulate the intellect, not the emotions of man. So as we discuss in this new series what the Father deems as true worship, we'll ask the question: Does this act promote the intellect or the emotions of men? 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

Seeking After God

It may seem a bit strange to state that we are to seek after God (Acts 17:27). Is God that difficult to find? We do not seek God because He is hard to find, but because we are lost! Without God, and His direction for our lives, we are empty and without purpose. How and where do we find God? Some seek God in idols, as the people of Athens did (Acts 17:22). Some seek God in the teachings of men, but that also fails: "The way of man is not in himself, it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23). Some seek God in human wisdom: "The word of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God...Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?...The foolishness of God is wiser than men" (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

Where and how do we seek after God, then? Paul gives us the answer in the passage above: "The word of the cross." We seek after God "by faith" just as Abel and Noah and Abraham and Moses did (Heb. 11:4,7,8,24). In fact, we read, "Without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him" (Heb. 11:6). Since "faith cometh by hearing the word of God" (Rom. 10:17), we must seek God in His word. The Bible, His inspired word, reveals God to us. That word reveals His character, His nature, His purposes for us, His promises, His wisdom, His salvation. If we would know anything about God, we must look to His word which reveals Him to us.

We encourage each and everyone to seek after God. Please study your Bible much, much more. As best suits your schedule, set aside a time each day for Bible study. Delve deep into God's revealed word, and learn more of His will for you, and live your life accordingly.

Bro. W. 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



April 19

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Cardenas; M. Neaves; J. Mora; B. Dorries*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11:23-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *G. Rodriguez*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *Open*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; R. Baltierra Jr.*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watknis*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Hernandez*
 AV Duty: *M. dela Garza*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

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
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Eloise Creek (had a fall; had minor surgery)
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Carolyn Harris
 Gerri Mayces (medical issues)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)

BATTLING CANCER:

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

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Mary Louese Hughes
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES APRIL

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Hipp
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Trevino
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Harris
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Open
 Brother in charge of services:
T. Mayces

AM Theme:
"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms
 PM Theme:
Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

AM Sermon:
Series Introduction (1)

PM Sermon:
In the Midst of Trials....

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

April 22: *R. Baltierra*
 April 29: *E. Lerma*
 May 6: *B. Dorries*

FOR THE RECORD

APRIL 12

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	52
Sunday AM Worship	76
Sunday PM Worship	41
Wednesday Bible Study	49
Budget/Offering:	\$2,450.00/ \$1,869.00

Weekly Bible Readers:
 10 out of 20 (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