

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)

The True Family of Jesus

Gabriel Rodriguez

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It's amazing how many people put their family before the Lord, which is ironic, seeing it was the Lord who blessed us with our family to begin with (Ps. 127). While our family is important, they should never replace what is true priority (cf. Matt. 6:33). Consider this exchange Jesus had with his disciples concerning this very issue: *“While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him...Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father, which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother”* (Matt. 12:46-50).

Jesus recognized the place his physical family possessed in his life, and it wasn't first. **Jesus understood that his true family were those who obeyed the will of His Father.** Therefore, Jesus established that the things of God, and those who obey Him, are more worthy of honor than our physical families. This

means that our desire to spend time with our spiritual family should outweigh the time we seek to spend with our physical families (cf. Heb. 10:23-24). Why? Because it is our spiritual families that we should have more in common with (Acts 2:43-45), possessing the goal of heaven (Phil. 3:16,20).

But the sad reality is, many folks put blood before the spiritual, and by doing this, we express to God what matters more to us - worldly pleasures rather than spiritual effort and obedience. So the words of Jesus was about priority. What do we value most in our life? In other words, what idol are we worshiping that has replaced the One True Living God. The Apostle John said, *“Little children, keep yourselves from idols”* (1 Jn. 5:21). This means we must never put something or someone before the things of God, and to do so is an affront to the Sovereignty and Majesty of God. Our true purpose in life is to get the next level and if we're unwilling to set in order what should matter most, then we begin to set ourselves for failure. My true family are those that are doing the will of God. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Rodriguez family is away on a youth camping trip hosted by Galena Park church of Christ at Palmetto State Park. Gabriel is giving lessons on the theme: "Going Against the Tide."

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 set for May 22. The Dorries' will host this event in the annex. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for May 29th. More details to come later.

AREA NEWS

Our men are invited to a Men's Day on May 9 at the Ft. Sam Houston congregation. Details are in the foyer.

There are more area wide meetings. See bulletin board.

TRUE WORSHIP (2)

Which acts constitute "true" worship unto God? The main word for "worship" in the Greek NT is *proskuneo* which is defined as paying homage in prostration or make obeisance showing your inferiority to one who is superior in rank. Therefore, worship consists of deferring myself to One that is greater than me, which suggests that I obey His commandments, not my whims and likes. In other words, our expression of worship must conform to the acts He has requested. So as we learned last week, since God is mind (Jn. 4:24), true worship must be geared to bolster the intellect of man. Therefore, the acts of worship we do must, first, be commanded by Him, and second, must bolster the mind of man. So, is there a NT passage that gives us these acts of worship or are we left wondering, creating our own acts of worship? Let's consider Acts 2:42.

Contextually, it is here that Peter preached the gospel of Christ (the life of Christ) to Jews which had assembled in Jerusalem for the observance of Pentecost. He finally commanded them to "*Repent and be baptized in the name of Christ for the remission of sins.....*" (Acts 2:38). About 3000 souls responded: "*They they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls*" (Acts 2:41,47). Following their conversion, we read in Acts 2:42, "*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers.*"

Consider carefully the process. Once these folks committed themselves to God by obeying the gospel, they adhered or devoted themselves (i.e., "*continued steadfastly*") to various actions, which included teaching, social intercourse, observing the Lord's Supper, and prayers. As one carefully considers each action, one is left with the impression that each act is geared toward the mind of man, which is consistent with our discussion last week on John 4:24.

Acts 2:42 gives the five actions Christians were to observe to help them in their conversion process. You see, although folks were baptized and forgiven of their past sins, the mind of man needed to be restored from evil mental habits inculcated in them while in the world. So what actions were going to help them? In other words, what actions were commanded to help get their mind restored in following God faithfully? They had to be actions that bolstered the mental faculties of man. So, it's very interesting that the actions of neophyte Christians involved strengthening their mind. Hence, the strict observance of teaching, social interaction, remembrance of Christ's life, and prayers. These acts all share one thing in common: to prepare the mind for a total renovation that would serve to re-establish mental clarity and focus. True acts of worship were meant to help us in our commitment to repent of sin. 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

Some Ways For Seeking After God

The best way to "see" God is to look at "His only begotten Son" (Jn. 3:16). Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you've seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). Jesus demonstrated the love of the Father for us in going to the cross as a sacrifice for our sins: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (Jn.15:13). Jesus showed us how much God wants us to be saved (1 Tim. 3-4) by shedding His blood for us that we might be reconciled to God "through the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20; Rom.5: 9-10). Not only does Jesus reveal God to us, He also reveals the way to God for us: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6).

Paul found that the Athenians were seeking to please God by their worship. Even though their worship was wrong, based on their lack of knowledge of the true God and His nature, it was still a seeking process for them. Abel was "seeking after God" when He offered the sacrifice (Gen. 4:4; Heb 11:4,6). Jesus explained to the Samaritan woman, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be worshippers" (Jno. 4:23). Our worship is designed by God for the express purpose of providing a way for us to "seek after God." When we gather together as the Lord's church (Acts 2:41-42,47) to pray, sing, study, eat the Lord's Supper and lay by in store, we are "seeking after God."

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 26

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *M. de la Garza; E. Lerma; J. Mokry; M. Gibson*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:45-54*
 Sermon: *Open*
 Benediction: *J. Guillen*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; G. Rodriguez*

Sermon: *Open*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *E. & K. Hipp*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

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 (is recovering at Rehab center)
 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); Mora's

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:
Open

PM Sermon:
Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

APRIL 19

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	56
Sunday AM Worship	91
Sunday PM Worship	46
Wednesday Bible Study	46

Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,572.08**

Special Contribution: \$13,000 for 2016 Lectureship
 \$3000 for Ladies Day

Weekly Bible Readers:
 10 out of 20 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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