

# 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)

## “the scent of his knowledge”

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

#### God's Ordained Order

#### Shepherd's Corner: What Is Our Purpose?

Pleasant smells are a blessing. The scent of a rose, perfume, fresh baked bread, and desserts conjure up happiness and enjoyment. But did you know that the way we live our lives is compared to a sweet smelling scent as well. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 2:14-17: “*Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savor (scent) of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet scent of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are scent of death unto death; and to the other the scent of life unto life...For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*”

The scent we give is the knowledge of Christ, meaning emulating the conduct and character of Christ (cf., 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Jn. 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21-22), in every place and to every person. This means that how we live our lives affects those we come in contact with. Therefore, I can either affect someone in a positive and/or negative way (1 Cor. 3: 3-11). This is why we should constantly examine ourselves (2 Cor. 13:5) to see whether we're

instrumental in perpetuating righteousness and not wickedness.

Paul further acknowledged that Christians should never be responsible in “*corrupting the word of God.*” The word “*corrupt*” is the Greek word *kapeleuo* and means a huckster, to retail, and/or to make money by selling anything. The idea is, Christians must not use Christianity as a means of gaining something for themselves (i.e., selfishness), rather we should use Christianity to solely promote the reputation of God and Christ. But in order to make this happen, Paul said we must be “*sincere*” and this word means to be judged by the sunlight and tested for genuineness and purity. Our mission then is *maintain our character* during trials of life (i.e., sunlight, heat), so we can draw others to God. This is why Paul said, “*...in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*” In other words, as we reflect the mind of Christ (2 Cor. 2:16) we become an aroma of pleasantness, not only to God, but to all men. This is consistent with what God said of Jesus in Luke 2:52, Christ “*increased in favor with God and man*” because of his conduct and character. May God be praised!

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after morning service. All visitors are invited to enjoy a meal and fellowship with us.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for April 17th at the Rodriguez' home. Festivities to begin at 7:00 pm. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

### 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 middled 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.

# God's Ordained Order

The 11th chapter of Corinthians is an interesting discussion on the subject of order and the promotion of peace. Paul begins with the statement, "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*" (v.1). Paul sets the tone for this chapter by acknowledging his willingness to submit unto Christ. And this was Christ's great lesson throughout His life - to defer oneself to He that is greater and mightier than we (Jn. 7:16-18; 14:28). Why was this concept important? It fought against the tendency of man "*to think of himself more highly than he ought to think*" (Rom. 12:3). When we consider our inferiority to He that is superior, then it should humble us to serve.

Paul reinforces this concept with the idea of the creation order - "*But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God*" (v.3). Every human being, including Christ, who lived as flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14), were subject to someone greater than themselves. When this is acknowledged and practiced, then humility softens us, but when this is rejected, pride is manifested and all chaos and disorder ensue (Pr. 16:18). Why? Because selfishness leads people to not consider others (Matt. 22:39), and when others are not considered, then we do things that eventually hurt others (Phil. 2:1-4; Jas. 3: 14-16). This is why Paul addressed in verses 17-19 that "*divisions*" had been manifested among the church at Corinth. Because of immoral conduct and character (i.e., selfishness), the

church was coming undone, but Paul acknowledged a blessing from their struggles - "*that they which are approved may be made manifest among you*" (v. 19). Struggles are meant to showcase the weak and the strong, the cowardly and valiant. This is why Paul used the example of the Lord's Supper in this context (vss. 24-26), to showcase the righteous conduct and character of Christ in the midst of great hardships of life. Likewise, as the brethren were going through their struggles, Paul commanded them to maintain their integrity of character, lest they should partake of the Lord's Supper, which reminded them of purity in the midst of struggles, unworthily. This is why Paul noted, "*Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord*" (v. 27). In other words, if we don't live praiseworthy lives in the midst of our trials then we mock the life of Christ. This is why Paul said, "*Let a man examine himself.....*" (v. 28). The word "*examine*" (*dokimazo*) means to test/prove someone in order to determine their genuineness and/or worthiness. In other words, as we partake of the Lord's Supper, which is symbolic of righteous character in the midst of trials, we must maintain our righteousness in the midst of our trials. But because many were not abiding in good character, Paul said, "*For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep*" (v.30), all referencing to people whose minds had been taken captive by 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

### What Is Our Purpose?

One of the best known sermons of all time is that which the apostle Paul preached in the city of Athens (Acts 17). The apostles had preached Christ throughout Asia Minor, then crossed into Europe. In Philippi, in Thessalonica, in Berea: Paul met opposition and suffered severe persecution, but a strong church of believers was planted in each of those cities. Then Paul came to Athens. This city was the capitol; of Achaia, the chief city of the area, the center of learning, and philosophy. It was also a "city full of idols" (Acts 17:16), and that is what caused Paul to preach this sermon.

Paul began the sermon by saying, "Ye men of Athens, in all things I perceive that ye are very religious" (Acts 17:22). After that compliment, He went on to show that their religion was wrong, but he had found a starting point. He spoke of their alter which was inscribed, "To an unknown God" (Acts 17:23), and continued to tell them about the one true God. "The God that made the world and all things therein...he made on one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God..For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:24-28). That was not only their purpose, it is ours: "To seek after God."

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:10-11).

**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 12

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*  
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.; Z. Watkins*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:6-9*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *E. Hipp; A. Maldonado*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. Gibson*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*  
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*  
 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  
 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; B. Garcia; 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:  
 Contend Earnestly For The Faith  
 PM Theme:  
 Setting The church In Order

AM Sermon:  
*"mockers in the last days"*

PM Sermon:  
*"exercise thyself"*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 25: J. Guillen  
 April 1: R. Baltierra Jr.  
 April 8: T. Mayces

## FOR THE RECORD

### APRIL 5

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 52  
 Sunday AM Worship 64  
 Sunday PM Worship 40  
 Wednesday Bible Study 44  
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$2,175.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:  
 11 out of 30 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.  
 San Antonio, TX 78230  
 (210) 696-5532

Fax: (210) 696-5181

Church email Address:

[shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org](mailto: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