

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 power of his resurrection”

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Life or Death (6)

Shepherd's
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Christ's
Followers Went
About Teaching
and Preaching
Early On

The apostle Paul was once a mighty figure in the Jewish religion (Phil. 3:4-6). But once he encountered Christ with an open mind (Acts 9), Paul transformed his life, citing: “*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ*” (Phil. 3:7). In other words, Paul was willing to let go of the comfort and ease of his previous life for the great challenges that lied ahead in obeying Christ. This is similar to what Moses did as stated in Hebrews 10:25.

But what was Paul’s motivation? He said, “*I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord*” (Phil. 3:8a). The Greek word for “excellency” is *huperecho*, which references the idea of superior living, (*lit. to possess the mind above*). But who was the standard? “*...of the knowledge of Christ.*” This is very similar to what Peter said in 2 Peter 1:3, “*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness THROUGH the knowledge of him (Jesus) that hath called us to glory (honored character) and virtue (moral excellence).*” Christ served as an excellent example to emulate (1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Jn. 2:6).

Paul would continue to say, “*...for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count*

them but dung, that I may win Christ” (Phil. 3:8b). Sufferings, trials of life, and hardships would be the test to ensure Paul’s genuineness and commitment to God (1 Pet. 1:7), to “*be found in him (Christ)...through the faith of Christ (his example of obedience), the righteousness which is of God (right conduct and character given by God-godliness)*” (Phil. 3:9).

Once passed, Paul understood that he would “*win*” the crown of life (2 Tim. 4:8). He expressed it this way: “*That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death*” (Phil. 3:10). To know Christ is emulate his life, even through grievous hardships of life (Matt. 16:24). But once we’ve conquered the tests of life through strong, persistent, and righteous character, we will then experience the “*power of his resurrection,*” meaning as Christ defeated death, likewise, we’ll defeat death and be resurrected unto eternal life (Jn. 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:44-48). Hence, the power of Christ’s resurrection witnesses a powerful character that dominated trials and hardships of life! May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, April 12, after morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

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. Time and location to be announced later.

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.

Reports from Chimala Missions and Samuel Ramirez are in the foyer.

See bulletin board for announcements of area meetings.

Life or Death (6)

So now that we've seen that Christ's life is what is exemplified in the Scriptures, **why does the religious world celebrate Christ's death?** Simply, because they don't know the symbolism and significance of Christ's death. We've been trained (since our youth) *to celebrate* the death of Christ, when in actuality our *focus* should have been on His life. Without the life of Christ, then His shed blood becomes insignificant. This is why Peter emphasizes the character of Christ in connection with his blood - "*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*" (1 Pet. 1:19). This was the same with Abel as he was identified as possessing "*righteous blood*" (Matt. 23:35); likewise, Christ possessed "*righteous blood*" and since "*life is in the blood*" (Lev. 17:11), the symbolic message is, Christ gives life to what has become dead, specifically our mind (Eph. 4:17-19; Col. 1:21-22). Through Christ's example and words (2 Pet. 1:3-4; Eph. 4:20-23), our minds (*coupled with openness and discipline, and knowledge, understand, and wisdom*) are restored back to the living way through "*righteousness and true holiness*" (Eph. 4:24).

This is why the plan of salvation as taught by Christ deals with the transformation of the mind leading to godly actions (Matt. 28:18-20; Lk. 13:3,5), which is re-started in the act of baptism (*immersion of the entire body*). This symbolic act cleanses our mind (where sins are stored, Heb. 9:14; 10:2; 1 Pet. 3:21) and restores it to a *new perspective of quality* which will

then be instrumental in leading our bodies (actions) in the ways of God - "*do works meet for repentance*" (Acts 26:20).

From baptism onward, Paul taught the challenges that lie ahead, namely, *removing* old mindsets and habits so we can live the abundant life (Rom. 6:5-12). This is why Paul spent much of his letters explaining what we yield our minds/bodies to do, we train them as instruments of righteousness unto God or instruments of unrighteousness unto sin and death (Rom. 6:13-16). But Paul noted, "*But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart (mind) that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you*" (Rom. 6:17). In other words, in order to defeat sin, (i.e., bad habits of mind/action), we must have a commitment of mind to the "*model or figure*" (*form*), namely Christ's example and teachings, to help convince us that we are more than capable of conquering life's hardships and battles. What this means is, sin or temptations of life is not the problem (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13), rather the fight is within ourselves (2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 6:12; Jas. 4:1-3) to train and discipline our minds to yield righteousness (Rom. 6:18-22). What is the reward and/or consequence? Paul said, "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (Rom. 6:23). When we focus on life, death has no power! So why are we enamored with the death of Christ, when His life is what matters? 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

Christ's Followers Went About Teaching And Preaching Early On

Persecution that arose upon the stoning of Stephen drove the saints from Jerusalem; but it did not stop their zeal for the Lord! "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ, and "When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). Peter and John came down from Jerusalem to impart spiritual gifts, which freed Philip for another work, and he was sent to preach to an Ethiopian nobleman riding in a chariot in a desert land. You can read of this conversion in Acts 8:26-39. The eunuch heard and believed, then asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" After being baptized, he went on his way rejoicing, with a gospel message to take back home; and Philip moved on to preach in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

Saul of Tarsus opposed the gospel, even to minding the clothes of them who were stoning Stephen. But he was converted (Acts 9, 16, 22), and became a strong, and zealous worker for Christ, declaring Christ so fully that he could say: "So that from Jerusalem to Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:19). He and others had done so much work that Paul asked: "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the world, and their words to the ends of the earth" (Rom. 10:19). He could also say he was made a minister of the gospel which had been preached to every creature under heaven (Col. 1:23).

What great examples for us today! Surely we have seen how the teaching and preaching of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed universally, but unfortunately, not in our time. There is MUCH that we can do. More especially, in this age of technology, there are many ways for us to spread the Good News. What are we doing about it? What do we plan to do about it? (Matt. 28:19).

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



April 5

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *S. McCardell; R. Trevino; G. Rodriguez; S. Hernandez*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:27-35*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Cardenas*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; R. Trevino*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. Neaves*

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *M. de la 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
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Zeke Watkins
 Carolyn Harris
 Bill Dorries' sister-in-law (Rose)
 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	Margie Hargrove
Sonny Cary	Mary Purkey
Elwyn Hipp	Graciola Anderson

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Mary Louese Hughes
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob (is with us today); B. Garcia

DEPLOYED:

James Braun (Nephew of Michael) (Navy).

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:
The Prophecy of Enoch

PM Sermon:
"Spoiled principalities and powers"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

MARCH 29

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	53
Sunday AM Worship	71
Sunday PM Worship	48
Wednesday Bible Study	43
Budget/Offering:	\$2,450.00/ \$2,591.00

Weekly Bible Readers:
 13 out of 27 (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

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