

# 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)

## Figurative Language and Symbolism (2)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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A figure of speech is a departure from the normal rules of grammar or word usage. For example, when someone says, “*The stadium is loud*”, are they meaning that the steel and stones are raucous, or are they speaking of the people inside the stadium who are actually making the loud noise? We use and hear many of these examples throughout our day as we converse with others.

Much to our chagrin, figures of speech of this sort are used extensively throughout Holy Writ. There are many reasons why figurative language is used and appropriate in written and spoken language. First, it gives special emphasis to what one is saying. Second, it calls attention to a specific point. And third, it adds force or power to an expression. For example, which sentence is more memorable or impactful: (1) “*A burglar snuck into my house,*” or (2) “*A burglar slipped into my house like a cat stalking prey.*”

This is the reason why figurative language has been used throughout

every culture, for it uses the realities of experience, making them analogous to life events for the purpose of drawing more interest and understanding to what is stated and happened. In other words, it forces us to think beyond the box and determine what the speaker and writer is getting at.

Seeing then that figurative language is part of the communication process, including the Bible, it behooves us to know and correctly interpret the meaning of its use. This is where much of our interpretative problems of the Bible have come from, resulting in foreign thoughts and concepts that don't jive with common sense and reality. And as a result, false doctrine is promoted resulting in abject thoughts and behavior (e.g., the doctrine of the Holy Spirit). Next week, we'll investigate some principles of misinterpretations when figurative and literal language are not properly deciphered. May God be Praised!

## “not given to much wine” (3)

### Church News and Announcements

#### CONGREGATION

Our Sunday luncheon is scheduled for September 13 after our morning services.

The menu will be seafood.

#### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be hosted by Sister Lucille Neaves on Sept. 18th at 7:00 pm at her home. All youth are encouraged to attend.

#### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young/middle age adult devotional is scheduled September 25. Place and time to be announced later.

#### AREA NEWS

There are several area meetings for adults and youth in the area. Please check bulletin board in foyer for more information.

One (necessarily) doesn't need to know principles of grammar and syntax to understand the correct Biblical teaching of alcohol consumption. If one merely utilizes common sense and logic, the answer is self-evident. The problem comes from individuals who support the use of alcohol consumption for recreational use by attempting to justify it by twisting and distorting passages for their own purposes (cf. 2 Pet. 3:16).

The number one passage used in the Bible to support recreational consumption of alcohol is John 2, when Jesus' first miracle involved changing water into wine. Quickly the assumption is made, that Jesus was at a wedding, and at weddings people consume alcohol, therefore, Jesus made alcohol for the patrons at the wedding to enjoy. But is this conclusion warranted by good sense and the Scriptures?

First, Jesus was the Son of God, who represented God in pureness and holiness (Jn. 5:19-20; Heb. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:14-15,18-19). Second, Jesus lived under the fiats of the Old Testament (Matt. 5:17), which taught and commanded abstinence from recreational alcohol consumption, as we've seen already (Lev. 10:9-10; Num. 6:1-4; Pr. 20:1; 23:29-33). Third, the reason abstinence was practiced is because alcohol consumption negatively affected the mental process and judgment of man (Pr. 31:5-7), which he needed daily to make sound and rational decisions. And fourth, the prophet Habakuk in chapter 2:15 condemned the nation of Israel

for making people drunk by giving them alcohol to drink.

If Jesus represented God in holiness and was under the law of Moses, then why would he jeopardize his righteousness through disobedience. The simple answer is, he didn't. Jesus said in Matthew 5:17 that he came to fulfill the law of Moses, this living pure and holy, representing God well. So why are people so quickly to assume the opposite? Because they're looking for some excuse to consume alcohol.

Furthermore, the idea that this was a wedding and “all” weddings practice recreational alcohol consumption is a bias. Because all weddings I've attended served alcohol, then this must mean that all weddings have alcohol. This is a slippery slope argument. First, we need to ask ourselves the question, what drinks did Jews have available to them, and more importantly, which would they consume? There were three drinks available to them. The first was water (Jn. 4:6), but since most water dispensers was questionable with regard to purity and cleanliness, they usually opted for their second choice, juice from grapes. The process of preserving grapes is well documented in ancient times, and initially involved adding pure water to preserved grape mixture (called *must*). And then there was alcoholic wine, which pagans developed and used during sinful and wicked festivals (Esther 1; 1 Pet. 4:3). The Jews chose either water or grape juice, drinks that would not compromise their way of thought. May God be praised!

## 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 Keep God's Commandments

It is never enough to say we trust the Lord. Jesus still asks, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). The only way to show our faith in the Lord is to do what he says: "What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him?...and I by my works will show thee my faith...Faith without works is dead...Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith" (Jas. 2:14-24), Look again at the faith taught in Heb. 11. Each of these who are commended heard from God whom He wanted, then, "by faith" they did it. It should be that simple in our lives today. If we trust the Lord, we will do what He says.

God told Israel their purpose, "These are the commandments, the statutes...that ye might do them...to keep all his statutes and his commandments" (Deut. 6:1-2). With that kind of emphasis, the doing of God's will took top priority in their lives. It should in our lives today as well. It is by our obedience that "ye have purified your souls" (1 Pet 1:22) and are "made free from sin" (Rom. 6:17). The point is well made in Heb. 5:8-9, "Though he were a son, yet learned obedience by the things suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him." Remember the admonition in Deut. 6:4? "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Well, examine that love again, "This is the love of God: that we keep his commandments, and his commandments are not grievous" (1 Jno. 5:3).

As "strangers and pilgrims" in this world., we need these admonitions in our lives today. Fear the Lord, recognize what sin will do to us, trust God, learn His will and do it. The promise is to us, also: "Observe to do it; that it may be well with thee" (Deut. 6:3).

**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



# August 29

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*  
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; J. Mora; E. Lerma; A. Maldonado*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:33-38*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. Neaves*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; G. Rodriguez*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Mokry*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*  
 Greeter/Usher: *R. Baltierra*  
 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  
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)  
 Anthony Harris Sr  
 Ina Dial  
 David Sudhoff  
 Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Gerri Mayces (medical issues)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes      Graciola Anderson  
 Lydia Cowan      George Jackson  
 Briana Nieves      Sonny Cary  
 Mary Purkey      Elwyn Hipp  
 Edna Wilks (cancer is back)

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Mary Louese Hughes  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES September

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Hernandez*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Neaves*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Rodriguez*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*Rodriguez*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*B. Dorries*

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:  
*Psalm 18*

PM Sermon:  
*Congregational Singing*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

September 2: *R. Baltierra Jr*  
 September 9: *T. Mayces*  
 September 16: *A. Maldonado*

## FOR THE RECORD

### August 23

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      59  
 Sunday AM Worship      77  
 Sunday PM Worship      46  
 Wednesday Bible Study      39  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$2,538.20**

Weekly Bible Readers: 7 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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