

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 Tongue of the Wise

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

“not given to much wine” (1)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**We Are To Trust The Lord**

Much of our social problems we encountered today is because of the way we speak to each other. James, the brother of Jesus noted that an uncontrolled tongue is like a “little fire” able to kindle a great matter, it “sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (Jas. 3:5b-6). Therefore, it would be wise to check our thoughts, which then leads to our speech, to make sure our chosen words will cause encouragement and positivity, rather than discouragement and negativity.

The Proverb writer said, “There is that speaks like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health” (12:18). The words we choose to say can either hurt or cause pain to someone, or they can help build them up. This is further confirmed in Proverbs 15:1 when the Proverb said: “A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” and “Death and life are in the power of the tongue....” (Pr. 18:21).

It’s important, then, that before we say something, we think about what we’re going to say and how we’re going to say it. Both are very important in making sure our relationships stay intact and foster great mental health.

Knowing how to word things and in what tone is indeed a skill worth having. It will help us to avoid needless problems that have the potential in damaging relationships we desperately need in life. The way we approach our spouses, neighbors, co-workers, extended family through speech and tone will determine our success in life, but if we choose to fill our vernacular with hate speech and angry tones, we’ll soon be abandoned and left alone. This is why Paul commanded, “Hold fast the form of sound words....” (2 Tim. 1:13a). Although, Paul is referring to words of truth that bring spiritual health, the principle is evident. Cling on to words that bring about health and success. May God be praised!

# “not given to much wine” (1)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class will be at 4:00 pm on August 23. The ladies will cover lesson 7 in their book, and the men will investigate the books of Nahum and Habakkuk.

The family home devotional will be on August 21 at 6:30 pm. The menu is healthy potluck. Every member is encouraged to attend.

We need a volunteer to prepare communion during the month of September. We also need a man to volunteer to be in charge of services during the month of September. If you can help, please see Elwyn.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for September; unknown date and time. More details to come later.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our young adult devotional is scheduled for August 28. More details to come later.

### AREA NEWS

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

Whenever the subject of alcohol consumption is addressed in religious circles, inevitably you'll have those who advocate for social drinking, suggesting that the Bible only condemns "becoming drunk" and not the moderate consumption of alcohol. Passages such as John 2:1-11, Galatians 5:21, and 1 Timothy 3:8, cf. Titus 2:3 are used to defend this position.

But upon closer investigation, do the passages cited support the view of moderate alcohol consumption? Or, do they contradict it? Let's consider the Old Testament's teaching on alcohol consumption, as well as the New Testament, and use good old fashioned common sense to determine the truth of this subject.

In the Pentateuch, holiness and purity were always identified with someone who had full and clear use of their mental faculties. Any substance responsible for clouding mental judgment resulted in severe consequences. We read in Genesis 9:20-21 that Noah began to drink wine and became drunk, which then led him to foolishly become naked inside his tent, which then encouraged Ham to commit sin against his father and the Lord. In Genesis 19:33-36, Lot's daughters made their father drunk and had sexual incestuous relations with him. In Leviticus 10:1-2, we read of Nabad and Abihu who offered "strange fire unto the Lord" and as a result were struck dead by the Lord. In Leviticus 10: 9-10, it seems to suggest that alcohol consumption had a part to do with their demise. Moses commanded, "Do not drink wine, nor strong drink...."

Each of these examples teach the process by which one becomes intoxicated, losing his or her use of mental faculties, thus priming a subject to make ill advised decisions.

It begins with the first sip. Once alcohol enters our mouth and then our bloodstream, it begins to work immediately on our brain. And once the brain is affected, then we leave ourselves open for faulty decision making, which would include the degree of consumption. This is why Moses commanded, "Do not drink wine nor strong drink,," because Moses understood what happens once any amount of alcohol enters our bodies, it distorts judgment (Pr. 31: 5).

This thought is further validated in Numbers 6, when those wishing to "vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord" (v. 2), were told to "*stay completely away* from wine and strong drink, and drink no vinegar of wine...neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried" (v. 3). Those who chose to follow the Lord would avoid any and all substances that would potentially alter their way of thinking. Why? Because it was their thought process they needed to keep clear and free, thus rendering a body (its actions) acceptable unto God. In each case we read this wasn't done and consequently, sin and wickedness was the result leading to death.

This is why God uses *the language of abstinence* when it came to alcohol consumption, and even went as far as saying, "Don't look upon the wine when it is red..." (Pr. 23:31). Why? Because those who become deceived by it, set themselves up for much problems cf. Pr. 20:1; 23: 29-33. And this is exactly what the great prophet Daniel did, as mentioned in Daniel 1:8. "But Daniel purposed in his mind that he would not defile himself...with the wine (the king) drank..." Daniel avoided it, and thus kept his mind functioning at optimal level. May we do the same. 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

### We Are To Trust The Lord

Abraham set us the great example of faith in God. The "father of the faithful" demonstrated his faith for us: "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out unto a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing whither he went...By faith Abraham, being tried, offered up Isaac" (Heb. 11:8,17). When God called, Abraham went without even knowing where he was going. when God told him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, he obeyed without question. That is the kind of faith we need. The great commandment is still the same: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God" (Deut. 6:5; Mk. 12:30).

The great "heroes of faith" (Heb. 11) trusted the Lord. Repeatedly the Scriptures say that people "by faith" lived as God directed. We are called to "live by faith" (Rom. 1:17) and "walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7). Trusting the Lord means looking to Him for guidance, recognizing that, "The way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Do we really trust Him that much? The apostle Paul did: "Christ liveth in me. The life which I now live, I live in faith, faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Only through such trust in the Lord can we "prosper in a strange land."

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus, For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27).

**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 16

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*  
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*  
 Lord's Supper: *M. Neaves; Z. Watkins; J. Mokry; M. de la Garza*

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

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *E. Hipp*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; B. Dorries*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. Neaves*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 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  
 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)  
 Mayces Family

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Edna Wilks (*in remission*)      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 August

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Hernandez*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Hernandez*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Hernandez*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*Hernandez*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*M. de la Garza*

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 16*

PM Sermon:  
*Excellence in Character*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

August 12: *M. de la Garza*  
 August 19: *E. Hipp*  
 August 26: *J. Guillen*

## FOR THE RECORD

### August 9

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      36  
 Sunday AM Worship      73  
 Sunday PM Worship      28  
 Wednesday Bible Study      41  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$2,371.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:  
 7/16 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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