

# 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 (1)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

“not given to much wine” (2)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**We Must Know God's Will**

In every society and culture, from the beginning of time until now, everyday speech has contained and continues to use figures and symbolism. This is what gives language its vivacity and color; for without it, human vernacular would be drab and boring.

It has been estimated that there are over 500 catalogued forms of figures of speech (*Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*, Bullinger, p. ix). With an enormous amount, it is no wonder that the understanding of communication is difficult at times. In this series of articles, we'll discover the origins of figurative speech and determine how to spot its use among everyday language. Interestingly, our most prized possession of thought and communication is the Bible and it too is filled with figures of speech. So with that in mind, it would behoove students of the Bible to identify forms of figures of speech used in the Bible. If our mission is to understand the Bible, then certainly identifying figures and symbolism

will enhance our knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures.

According to Bullinger, “*all language is governed by law; but, in order to increase the power of a word, or the force of an expression, these laws are designedly departed from, and words and sentences are thrown into, and used in, new forms, or figures.*” We can thank the Ancient Greeks who reduced these new and peculiar forms to a science, and gave names to more than two hundred of them. The Romans then carried this science forward, but during the decline of learning in the Middle Ages, it practically died out (Bullinger). While some writers have spoken on this subject, for the most part, the science and knowledge of figures and form of words has been completely forgotten, or reinterpreted.

In these articles, we'll revive the discussion and knowledge of forms and figures in speech. We'll then apply the things we learn to our understanding of the Scriptures. May God be praised!

# “not given to much wine” (2)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class is today. The ladies will cover lesson 7 in their book, and the men will investigate the books of Nahum and Habakkuk. All our women and men are 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 will be hosted by Sister Lucille Neaves. Date and time to be announced later.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our young/middle age adult devotional is scheduled for this Friday, August 28, at the Rodriguez home. Festivities will begin at 7:00 pm. The menu is salads and soups. Bring your favorite recipe.

### AREA NEWS

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

As we learned last week, the Old Testament injunction on alcohol consumption was simple - don't look at and/or consume alcoholic beverages. We read further in Habakkuk 2:15 that God commanded, "*Woe unto him that gives his neighbor alcohol, that puts the bottle to him, and makes him drunk, that thou may look on their nakedness!*" This passage reveals what we spoke on last week. The consumption of alcohol robs a person of their full use of mental faculties and effects poor decision making (cf. Gen. 9:20-22; Prov. 31:4-5).

So, does this message change at all in the New Testament, under the leadership and guidance of Christ? No! Consider this logical reasoning. First, Christ lived under the Old Testament law. Jesus said, "*Think now that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill*" (Matt. 5:17). If Jesus resided under the Old Law, then this would mean that the passages referring to the practice of no alcohol consumption was observed (cf. Lk. 1:15). Second, to showcase how serious he was about this, at his crucifixion, Christ rejected vinegar mingled with gall (Matt. 27:34). Gall was an opiate that affected a person's senses and feelings of the body. Christ immediately rejected it. Third, the use of the word "wine," both in the Old and New Testament, didn't always refer to alcoholic beverages.

In the Hebrew language the word "wine" is *yayin*. This word was used to indicate both the intoxicating beverage (Gen. 9:21,24; 19:33-34; Pr. 4:17; 20:1; 23:30-31) or pure grape juice (Gen. 14:18; Ps. 4:7; 104:15; Pr. 3:10). In similar fashion, the word "wine" used in the Greek language is *oinos*. This word, as well, was used to described two types of substances - alcoholic beverage (Eph. 5:18; 1 Tim. 3:3,8; Tit. 1:7; 2:3; 1 Pet. 4:3) or pure

juice of the grape (Matt. 9:17; Mrk. 2:22; Lk. 5:37-39; Lk. 10:34). In both instances, it's the context that reveals which beverage is referenced. A practice that is scarcely used in our religious world to determine the correct meaning of a word and passage.

Since there are two senses of the word "wine", then we must put on our thinking caps and logically deduce what is more rational to believe and accept. Would God allow us to consume anything that alters my way of thinking? Or, does it make more sense that abstinence is what God desires? Consider the word "sober" as used in the New Testament. This word is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:6,8; 1 Timothy 3:2; 3:11; Titus. 1:8; 2:2,4,6; 1 Peter 1:13; 4:7; 5:8. The Greek word is *nephele*, and is defined, surprisingly for some, as **to abstain from wine; to be calm and collected in mind**. God commanded abstinence from alcoholic beverages. Why? Because God knew and understood what alcohol does to a person's mind and actions - leads to poor decision making and the use of the body in a sinful and wicked manner.

So what about those passages, which seem to suggest that consumption of "wine" is acceptable? I submit that those passages have been filtered with a humanistic mindset. In other words, many will interpret a passage to fit their likes and dislikes, and will not interpret a passage with sound reasoning, conforming to righteous conduct and behavior. We'll explore these passages next week. 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 Must Know God's Will

The admonition of Moses emphasizes how important it is to know the will of God: "These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:6-7). No one can accidentally live right, and no one can live better than he has learned. Israel needed to know, and be reminded constantly, what God had done for them and what He expected from them. So do we. The Bereans were commended: "They received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the Scriptures daily" (Acts. 17:11). The Jews were castigated, "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God" (Matt. 22:29). Knowing the will of God Wes the difference.

Jesus gathered the disciples and told them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature...Go ye and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19). The only way people could properly respond to God was by being taught: "They shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, commeth unto me" (Jno. 6:45). Israel was told how important it was to know God's will, and to teach His will to the children, and remind each other constantly of His will for their lives. It is that important today to study and learn His will for us (2 Tim 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:3-5). The apostle Paul wrote, "The word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but to us who are saved, it is the power of God" (1 Cor.1:18). In order for that "power of God" to work in our lives, we must learn His word (Rom. 1:16-17). We encourage you to study your Bible much, much more, learn God's will for you, and live it out in your daily walk with Him.

**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 23

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*  
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; B. Dorries; R. Baltierra; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:45-54*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Cardenas*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*  
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*  
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; M. Neaves*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*  
 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  
 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: *Unk. at the time*

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 17*

PM Sermon:  
*Rich in Character*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

## FOR THE RECORD

### August 16

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study                      49  
 Sunday AM Worship                      65  
 Sunday PM Worship                      49  
 Wednesday Bible Study                      38  
 Budget/Offering:    **\$2,450.00/ \$1,572.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:  
 NA (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