

# 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)

## Matthew 23 (4)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

**Give Me A Church That Knows Its Purpose In Life**

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**Finding Peace with Ourselves**

Religious leaders of Jesus' day were fake. Their actions were simply meant to look the part of a holy person, but their motives and actions were identified as evil. Consider verse 14: *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a presence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.”*

One of the great travesties mentioned in the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament, was the neglect and abuse of widows (Ezek. 22:25; Jas. 1:27). Taking advantage of their vulnerabilities angered the Lord. Yet, the scribes and Pharisees didn't mind using their contrived positions to take advantage of them for their own pleasures. They would go into widow's homes, play the part of a concerned religious leader by making long pretentious prayers, and take from them what they desired. Jesus condemned these feigned workers of God as receiving the greater damnation at the end of life (e.g., Lk. 16: 19-25).

The lesson we learn is, God knows what is in our minds and hearts as we do certain actions (Heb. 4:13). Therefore, when our actions are merely to be seen of men to take advantage of those in need, then we are setting ourselves for a rude awakening and destruction in the end.

You'd be surprised how many so-called “religious leaders” fit this description today. They use their “elevated” positions to serve their own bellies (Phil. 3:19; Tit. 1: 11-12). They play the part in order to receive something in return, taking advantage of the less fortunate.

May we never be guilty of using Christianity as a way of obtaining something in return. Christianity is a religion of service, where we help people without any expectation of return. Paul said, *“I have showed you all things how that so laboring you ought to support the weak, and to remember the word of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35).

As Christians, our mission in life is to genuinely serve others without any expectation of benefits. We should never use the position of religion to take advantage of people, especially those in dire need. Unfortunately, in the name of Christianity, there are many denominations and of the Lord's church, that serve with an expectation of receiving something in return, and rob from those who are less fortunate. Remember, the mission of the church is an extension of the service of God and Jesus. Both served humanity because they loved them. May we do the same. May God be praised!

# Give Me A Church That Knows Its Purpose In Life

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after morning service.

Everyone, especially our visitors, are invited to stay and eat with us.

The Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting Fabric Softener sheets and Pie Filling. The truck will be here between December 15-17. As before, you can donate funds by giving it to one of our elders, memo your check for Sunny Glenn, or purchase these items on your own and place it in the library. The donated funds will be used to purchase the items in bulk from Sam's Club. Thank you.

### YOUTH

We thank the Dorries and Sister Harris for the kids Christmas Party on Friday. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

### YOUNG ADULT

The Young Adult Christmas Party is this Friday at the home of the Rodriguez's. Please bring a wrapped \$20 gift for exchange. The menu will be Christmas party foods and desserts. Festivities will begin at 7:00 pm.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

Last week we looked at the subject of what many people look for in a church today. We learned that the criteria used is foreign to what the Bible teaches. While many simply lean toward a church that is aesthetically and emotionally appealing, the Bible speaks of gravitating toward a church that knows its true purpose in life. What is church intended for?

You'd be surprised many don't know the answer to this question. There are a number of folks that don't know what church is intended for. Many use church as a "make-me-feel-good" tool, others think church is an institution that is to provide for the physical welfare of the poor and needy, and then there are those that believe church is simply a great social experiment where people come together to network. But as we noted last week, much to the chagrin of many, church is neither of the above mentioned. The concept and idea of church was far greater.

We learn about the purpose of the church from the book of Isaiah. The church was prophesied to do two things. Isaiah said, "*And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall tho forth the law, and the word of the Lord from*

*Jerusalem*" (2:2-3). First, church serves as an institution for all races, cultures, ethnicities, and sexes to come together and be united. This means church is to reach out to all men. This is why after baptism, which puts one into Christ and His church (1 Cor. 12:12-14), Paul said, "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male and female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus*" (Gal. 3:29). Second, the church's responsibility, mainly its leaders, is to teach God's will and become examples to the world. This means the teaching must conform to God's truth, not man-made doctrines and laws (Jn. 17:17; Matt. 15:7-9). When you get the doctrine right, then we can begin to be the example needed in life.

The church was never to be about appearance and an emotional appeal, rather the church's main function was to become an organization of unity (Eph. 4:1-3), and their unity was to be upheld by teaching and practicing truth (Jn. 8:31-32). Therefore, it behooves us as followers of God to know and practice the true intent of the church. Only God's will, coupled with self-discipline, can transform us. Let's stop allowing the denominational world and false congregations to dictate what the church is and has become. Hence, we should desire to be part of a church that knows its true purpose in life - unity in truth. Let's get serious about growing in the knowledge of God's word. 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

### Finding Peace With Ourselves

Probably the principle reason for strife between people is the strife within people. It is very difficult to be at peace with others when there is a war raging within us. The apostle Paul said, "Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. But he that boubteth is condemned if he eat...Herein do I exercise myself to have a conscience void of offense toward God and man always" (Rom. 14:22-23; Acts 24:16). One just cannot have peace within himself while he lives in a way that he believes to be wrong. Living at variance to what we have learned is right is a sure guarantee that we will be at war constantly with ourselves.

The "Prince of Peace" grants peace through our faith in Him: "Casting all your care on him, for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7). When we se that "God hath made him both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36) and that He has "all authority, both in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18), we have the basis for real peace. "If God is for us, who is against us?...Lo, I am with you alway...Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me" (Rom. 8:31; Matty. 28:20; Jno.14:1). You see, nothing can hurt you, if Christ is your Protector, if He cares for you and has the power to take care of you in all circumstances. And He does! Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (Jno. 14:27). The assurance that Jesus cares, that He protects and that "He is able to save to the uttermost" (Heb. 7:25) should give us that "peace of God which passeth understanding" (Phil 4:7).

"The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked" (Prov. 10:3).

**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



# December 13

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; J. Mokry; J. Guillen; J. Mora*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11:23-29*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*  
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; M. de la Garza*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Mora*

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*  
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*  
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*  
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

## REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes  
 Juanita Mahan  
 Richard Rodriguez  
 Rina White  
 Joe Guillen  
 Sarah Cannon  
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)  
 Ina Dial  
 David Sudhoff  
 Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)  
 Caral O'Banon

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes      Graciola Anderson  
 Lydia Cowan      George Jackson  
 Briana Nieves      Sonny Cary  
 Elwyn Hipp      Gwen Parker

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Mary Louese Hughes  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES DECEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*P. White*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Moras*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Open*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*Open*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*J. Guillen*

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 32*

### PM Sermon:

*Protecting the Reputation of God (5)*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

December 16: *R. Baltierra*  
 December 23: *E. Lerma*  
 December 30: *B. Dorries*

## FOR THE RECORD

### December 6

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      44  
 Sunday AM Worship      63  
 Sunday PM Worship      48  
 Wednesday Bible Study      43  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$1,449.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/19 (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