

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)

## 1 Corinthians 9 (6)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

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*Shepherd's Corner:*

**We Must Place Our Trust in the Lord**

Paul ends chapter 9 with a thought regarding a foot race. Although our mission is to preach and live the gospel (vss. 15-19) so that others may come to know Christ and his process of spiritual development, ultimately everyone is responsible to finish their own race, and this is Paul's thought in verses 24-27.

He begins by stressing *the urgency and importance* of the race - “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receives the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.” The urgency and importance is the fact that only a few will experience the bliss and joy of winning (cf. Matt. 7:13-14). If this be true, then a desire to finish our race (of life) with strength and receive the prize (i.e., an “*incorruptible crown*”) must be evident. In other words, we shouldn't hold back, but give everything we have to finish what we've started (cf. Eccl. 7:8).

Second, the Christian race can only be successful when the competitor is “*temperate*” in all things (v. 25). In other words, he or she must possess self-control throughout the race. Why? To curb the desire of “*mentally*” giving up due to difficulties of life (cf. Heb. 12:2-3).

Third, when Paul ran, he ran with a purpose in mind, and not simply as one who ran aimlessly (v. 26). A goal driven race keeps us motivated and zealous to finish what we have begun.

And fourth, this race is about *mind over matter*. Paul says, “*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway*” (v.27). This is consistent with what Paul said to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:16, “*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine...for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*” When the race becomes cumbersome and painful, we must fuel the power of the mind to usurp the desires of the body (Rom. 6:12). It takes great discipline to accomplish this. By allowing our intellect to lead our bodies, rather than the body leading our intellect, we then become an example to others showing them that life can be dominated and conquered. Hence, we then save ourselves and give others inspiration to finish their own race with strength and dignity. May God be praised!

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

Today is our fellowship lunch after our morning service. Everyone is invited to stay and eat with us.

The family home devotional will be hosted by the Dorries on February 20th at 7:00 pm in the annex building. The menu is healthy potluck. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

This will be brother and sister's Oakes last Sunday with us. We'll greatly miss them. Godspeed on in their new journey in SC.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional (hosted by the Dorries) will be on February 27th at 7:00 pm in the annex building. All our young people are encouraged to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for February 13th at 7:00 pm. We're still looking for a host for this event. Please see either Austin or Stephen.

### AREA NEWS

The Dripping Springs congregation is hosting a Gospel meeting with Neal Pollard, February 8-11th. See bulletin board for more details.

The Midtown church of Christ in Victoria, TX is hosting the Southwest School of Bible Studies Student Lectureships, February 27th - March 1st. See bulletin board for more details.

# Social Drinking (6)

Did the apostles follow suit in the same line of reasoning as the Old Testament and Jesus Christ concerning the consumption of alcohol? Let's take a look.

In the book of Acts, the only mentioning of the alcohol is found in Acts 2:13-15. It is here that the Apostles were given the ability to speak in other languages (*through the power of the Holy Spirit*) for the purpose of spreading the message of Christ to Jews who had been scattered abroad and who spoke different dialects (Acts 2:7-11). The people who heard them supposed that the apostles were "*full of new wine.*" But Peter responded by saying, "*For these are not drunken as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day (i.e., early morning).*" What this shows us was the apparent problem of alcohol consumption, which made people act and speak weird. This would be consistent with Proverbs 23:23-35 in the sordid effects of alcohol consumption - "*who hath babbling?*" But Peter corrected their false reasoning and explained the matter according to prophecy (vss. 16-19, cf. Joel 2).

In the book of Romans, chapter 13, verse 13, the Apostle Paul referred to "*works of darkness*" and said, "*Let us walk in well-mannered behavior, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.*" Connected with drunkenness was impurity and obscene gestures, fornication, uncontrolled passions, quarreling, and jealousy. All of which, once again, mimic the sinful consequences

mentioned in Proverbs 23:23-35. Why? Once the mind is distorted then all rational thoughts and actions are no longer available to us and we begin to be led by our emotions and feelings.

In the book of 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Paul gives a litany of sins that people engaged in that would not serve them to inherit heaven as their final destination, of which was included "*drunkards.*" In the following verses, the context reveals that Paul determined to not allow anything in life to enslave him (i.e., *addiction*) (v. 12); neither food and/or sex (vss. 13-18). He ended by saying, "*...glorify God in your body, and in your mind, which are God's.*" As we've already discussed, alcohol consumption messes with our ability to think and reason correctly; therefore, if our minds and bodies are to be used for God's glory and alcohol consumption distorts the mind, then wouldn't it make logical sense to refrain from consuming alcohol.

In the book of Galatians, Paul once again gives a litany of sins called "*works of the flesh*" (5:19) that they "*which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God*" (5:21). In the list the word "*drunkenness*" is included. I want to pause here to discuss the idea of drunkenness, because the main thought of many who support alcohol consumption (i.e., social drinking) will make the argument that the Bible only condemns the extreme use of alcohol leading to drunkenness. We'll see in our next article whether this is the case. 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 Place Our Trust In 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 whether 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 today. 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. Many times 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."

How strong is your faith? How much do you trust God?

**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



# February 8

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*  
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*  
 Song Leader: *J. Oakes*  
 Lord's Supper: *M. Gibson; S. McCardell; G. Rodriguez; M. dela Garza*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; A. Martinez*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Mora*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*  
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*  
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*  
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, R. Baltierra; PM, J. Oakes*

## 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  
 Isabel (Lynn's mother)  
 David Sudhoff  
 Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 George Jackson (at Warm Springs Rehab Center)

### 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

### DEPLOYED:

James Braun (Nephew of Michael) (Navy).

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FEBRUARY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Hipp*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Hipp*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Hipp*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room  
*Hipp*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*E. Hipp*

AM Theme:  
 Contend Earnestly For The Faith  
 PM Theme:  
 Setting The church In Order

AM Sermon:  
*Introduction (2)*

PM Sermon:  
*The Leaders of Men (2)*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 28: A. Maldonado  
 February 7: R. Baltierra  
 February 14: E. Lerma

## FOR THE RECORD

### FEBRUARY 1

**Attendance:**  
 Sunday Bible Study      56  
 Sunday AM Worship      85  
 Sunday PM Worship      53  
 Wednesday Bible Study   51  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$2,133.00**

Weekly Bible Readers      5 (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