

# 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)

## Which Is Your Foundation?

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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Jesus asked a rhetorical question in the long ago: “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*” (Lk. 6:46). To be recognized by God as being one of His own is much more than just saying His name, it’s doing what He has asked of you (cf. Jas. 1:22-23).

Jesus likened this question to a wise and foolish man who had built their house on different foundations. In describing the wise person he said, “*Whosoever comes to me, and hears my saying, and does them, I will show you to whom he is like...a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon the rock*” (Lk. 6:47-48). A wise person not only hears, but more importantly, does (takes action) what God has asked of him. The wise person “*digged deep*” and set his foundation on a rock. In other words, the wise man labored and toiled, (physically and spiritually, mentally), which prepared him to handle any and all problems that would come his way (cf. Jn. 16:33). Preparedness equals better responsiveness and success (cf. Lk. 12:45-48; 14:28-31).

On the converse, the foolish man is “*he that hears and does not...is like a man that without foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great*” (Lk. 6:49). A fool is one that takes life for granted, never listens, never toils and labors, and consequently, is ill-prepared to handle the affairs of life. In other words, he has no work of preparation to rest upon as he meets and confronts challenges of life. Therefore, when problems arise he becomes consumed by them, and his destruction is great. Why? He had no foundation to rest upon.

The difference between the two is one puts effort into life and the other doesn’t; one is a worker, the other is lazy. Our success in life will depend on our work ethic, in preparing ourselves physically and mentally (cf. Matt. 25:1-13). If we put in our time, then challenges of life become bearable and manageable, but if we slack, we’ll forever be ruined and exploited! May God be praised!

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

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.

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class will be at 4:00 pm on February 22.

There will be a baby shower (boy) for Jimmy and Jessica Cardenas on March 1st from 2-4 pm. They are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

### 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 adults are planning to go to the Rodeo on February 28th (Sat). Please see Stephen or Austin for further details.

### AREA NEWS

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 (7)

With all the Scriptural evidence for the evils of alcoholic consumption, it's amazing how many "Christians", including leaders of the church advocate for social drinking. The main argument given for social drinking is based on "degree" of alcohol consumption. But does this argument have any merit? Let's investigate the Scriptures.

The argument goes something like this: "The Bible doesn't condemn drinking alcohol, it only condemns not getting drunk!" Does this reasoning seem logical and consistent with what the Bible has already taught (OT) concerning alcohol consumption? No. Now let's look at the definition of the word "drunkenness." The word comes from the Greek word *methusko* and is defined as "to make drunk, marking the process of becoming drunk" (**Vines Expository Lexicon**). In other words, *the process of becoming drunk* is condemned, which condemns the first sip of the first drink. This is consistent with Proverbs 23:31 when God said, "*Look not thou upon the win when it is red....*" Also, this is consistent with the word "*sober*" in the NT which is the Greek word *nepho* and is defined as to "abstain from wine," so that the mind can be calm and collected. *Nepho* is consistent with Proverbs 23:29, which gives us a description of a chaotic mind and actions under the influence of alcohol. **The point is clear. God condemns the beginning process to becoming drunk, which logically and common sensibly BEGINS with the first sip of the**

**first drink.** Here is another argument to prove this fallacious reasoning of degree. In Titus 1:6 (cf. Eph. 5:18), Paul addresses the character of children of a qualified elder saying, "*having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*" The Greek word for "riot" is *asotia* and is defined as "excessive wickedness." If we were to use the same line of reasoning of degree, then this would mean that children of an elder could engage in "some" wickedness just as long as it didn't become too excessive; but we know better than this. The Bible says we must put away "*all*" evil from our lives (Jas. 1:16; 4:7). The reasoning why a "degree" was given was to show the end result of sinful behavior. When we feed our carnal pleasures, it gives way to bad habits, and when bad habits are left unchecked, it leads to excessive and deplorable conditions (Rom. 7:5, 15-23).

Drunkenness is the end result of allowing ourselves to be deceived by the lure of sin. Once ensnared, it begins to work on our physical system and many become dependent upon it, and in the end, minds are distorted and evil actions committed. Therefore, the wisdom of God has always been to stay away from alcohol - don't go near it, don't touch it, don't look at it, and most importantly, don't drink it, because in doing so we end up sinning. We must never be fooled by silly arguments of men who wish to ride the line, rather we must be bold and courageous to remain sober and pure of mind. 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 Keep The Lord's Commandments

It isn't 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. 2:15-24). Look again at the faith taught is Heb. 11. Each of these who are commended heard from God what 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. 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, look at 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).

We encourage each one to study your Bible much, much more, to learn God's will for you, and live your life accordingly.

**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 15

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *Open*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; M. Neaves; Z. Watkins; T. Mayces*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *Open*  
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*  
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper: *Open; R. Trevino*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*  
 AV Duty: *Open*  
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*  
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, J. Mora; PM, R. Baltierra*

### 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 (3)*

PM Sermon:  
*The Leaders of Men (3)*

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

## FOR THE RECORD

### FEBRUARY 8

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 57  
 Sunday AM Worship 82  
 Sunday PM Worship 53  
 Wednesday Bible Study 48  
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$3, 063.36**

Weekly Bible Readers 15 (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 San Antonio, TX 78230  
 (210) 696-5532

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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