

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)

Helping the Cause of God

Gabriel Rodriguez

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To Be Pleasing To God We Must Know His Will

The Bible identifies “true” Christians as “workers together with him” (2 Cor. 6:1a, cf. 1 Cor. 3:9). This means we must represent God through our character lest we “receive the grace of God in vain” (2 Cor. 6:1b); meaning, lest we reject the divine (godly) influence upon the mind of man, leading to living “soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world” (Tit. 2:11-12). This is consistent with 2 Corinthians 6:2 when Paul says, “I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” In other words, Christians are commanded to live righteously now, today, and in the present moment. Making excuses that we can’t because of the present wicked condition is unacceptable (cf. Phil. 2:15). God expected and anticipated His children to live above the influence, regardless of the teeming wicked influences that pervade our life. He even expected **perfection** in the process - “Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God...” (2 Cor. 6:3-4a).

Even under extreme pressures of life - “in much patience, afflictions, necessities, distresses,

stripes, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watchings and fasting” (2 Cor. 6:4b-5), God expected Christians to rise above in character by - “*pureness, knowledge, long-suffering, kindness, holy mind, genuine love, word of truth, power of God, armor of righteousness”* (2 Cor. 6:6-7). Even if Christians we falsely accused (2 Cor. 6:8), Paul encouraged that their life be a testament of truth disabusing notions of falsehood - “*As unknown, and yet well-known; as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things”* (2 Cor. 6:9-10).

Being workers together with God is strictly due to how well we behave in life, whether we experience good and bad times. But it is during the days of hardships that our character will be challenged even more. This is when we need to step up and control our emotions, utilizing the faculty of intellect to help us become great leaders God desires of us, and in this way we are able to make a difference for God, helping His cause. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying Lesson 1 of the book, Seasoning Your Words. The men will continue their studying in the Minor Prophets.

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

The youth devotional has been combined with the young adult activity this month. Both will be attending the SA Rodeo on the 27th (Friday). Please see Stephen for more information.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adults are planning to go to the Rodeo on February 28th (Sat). Please see Stephen 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 (8)

In conclusion, ungodly and worldly-minded men have always attempted to re-write the meaning of Scriptures to fit their own personal agendas (2 Pet. 3:16; Gal. 1:6-10). Advocates of **social drinking** fit this bill. We have in great lengths discussed what both the Old and New Testament teach regarding the consumption of alcohol, and in both testaments, drinking alcohol *in any degree* is sinful; thus the command to stay away from alcohol is given and makes sense (Pr. 23:30, cf. 4:14-15).

Our most prized possession is the mind, and it is up to us to make sure we are feeding our bodies *healthy substances* that support a healthy brain and thought function (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Thus the reason God commands Christians to be "sober" (i.e., *free from intoxicants*). When we're sober then we can use our minds to make good decisions for the honor and glory of God (Matt. 5:16).

We must never allow doctors, friends, and/or family members to convince us that the consumption of alcohol in any degree is permissible, rather we should always obey God rather than men (Acts 5:19). Although the world has its standards, God attempts to show us true reality and the consequences of poor decision making. As Paul noted: "*Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust thereof*" (Rom. 13:14). In other words, don't put yourself in a situation where you might be tempted to fall, and in this case, don't consume alcohol, that after your first sip, begins to corrode your mental faculties.

So, protect the mind by feeding the brain nutrients, not toxins (Pr. 4:23; Gal. 5:20; 1 Cor. 3:15-16; 6:19-20). The onus is on us. What will we do? Will we continue to abide by worldly pleasures or will we stand for God and His will, and uphold a pure mind? Choose wisely my friends. 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

To Be Pleasing To God We Must Know His 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 riseth up" (Deut. 6:6-7). No one can live right accidentally, 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 commanded: "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 was 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, cometh 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). "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).

Parents, we encourage you to spend more time with your children, as you teach them what God's will is for them in their life.

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 22

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *M. Gibson*
 Song Leader: *Open*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; B. Dorries;*
 J. Cardenas;
 E. Lerma
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *S. McCardell*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *M. Gibson; J. Mora*
 Sermon: *Cong. Singing*
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *M. De La Garza*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, A. Maldonado;*
 PM, Open

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
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 George Jackson (at Warm Springs Rehab Center)
 Zeke Watkins
 Carolyn Harris
 Bill Dorries' sister-in-law (Rose) had a heart attack

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:
 "crept in unawares"

PM Sermon:
 Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

February 28: *W. Holmes*
 March 4: *G. Rodriguez*
 March 11: *M. De la Garza*

FOR THE RECORD

FEBRUARY 15

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	45
Sunday AM Worship	63
Sunday PM Worship	45
Wednesday Bible Study	46
Budget/Offering:	\$2,450.00/ \$2,006.70

Weekly Bible Readers 12 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:
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