

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 (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

Social Drinking (1)

*Shepherd's
Corner:*
**Keep On Keeping
On**

In weeks to come we'll examine chapter 9 of 1 Corinthians in detail. But before we reach the thoughts of Paul in chapter 9 it is fitting we set his thought process. In chapters 1-4 Paul begins his discussion with the subject of church division (1:10-13), which was fueled by carnal (worldly, wicked) mentalities (2:13-3:3). The underpinning of their carnality was arrogance and pride (3:18-4:6,18-19). Their arrogance and pride led some in the church to flaunt their sin of fornication (ch. 5) and openly sue their brethren in court (6:1-8), but Paul helped to remind them: “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God*” (6:9-10). Their “perceived legitimate” actions were leading them to destruction, not salvation.

But Paul acknowledged: “*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified....*” (6:11). What the Corinthian brethren were also reminded of was their pledge and commitment in leaving their old lifestyle

of sin for the life of Christ (Gal. 4:19). Hence, their mission was to rid sinful habits (6:12-18) and “*glorify God* (through a renewed character and conduct) *in body and spirit (mind)*” (6:19-20).

And the only way this would be accomplished is when Christians work together to help each other accomplish the task of righteousness, which begins (for many) with their marital relationship (ch. 7). Husbands and wives helping each other to maintain their Christian walk by forming and sustaining great and righteous habits of life (vss. 34-37).

Why should the building of good and righteous habits be practiced? Because of what problems await us in life and in the church? You see, if a person hasn't built within himself an inner government of righteousness, then he or she is susceptible to fall and harm the reputation of God within the church and world. This is what the Apostle Paul deals with in the following chapters. Problems will either make the church stronger or weaken it, and this based upon habits we've formed in our lives, which must be sustained by each other's help. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, January 11th, after morning services. The menu is healthy potluck.

The Ladies' Get-together will be on January 22nd and the Men's Dinner will be on January 27th. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

YOUTH

The youth are scheduled to meet on January 11th at 3:30 to sing at a retirement home. See Rosie for more details if you wish to attend and sing with the young people.

The youth devotional is scheduled for January 16th in the annex building. The Dorries' will be hosting this event. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for January 23rd. More details to come later.

AREA NEWS

The Midtown congregation in Victoria, TX is hosting a Ladies' Day on Saturday, January 17th. Wish Clarke will be speaking on the topic "The Lighthouse." A flyer is on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Social Drinking (1)

The subject of the consumption of alcoholic beverages is a never ending saga. Its wide spread use and accepted practice in the world has influenced many "Christians" to reason within themselves that moderate drinking (aka. social drinking) is permissible. But what does the Bible actually teach on this subject? Does it condone or suggest that moderate drinking is acceptable? The pro-argument for moderate consumption has always been: "The Bible only condemns drunkenness!" and "Jesus made water into wine!" But do these arguments have a leg to stand on? Let's begin our thought process from the Old Testament. I don't believe it's necessary to explore word definitions (although it is extremely helpful) to extract a correct view as to how God thinks of the consumption of alcohol (in any form or fashion).

We first read of the consumption of alcohol in Genesis 9:20-25, which resulted in the poor judgment of Noah and the sin of Canaan. The appropriate question is: Where did Noah and Canaan learn these behaviors? It is obvious from the context they learned it from the old world **in which God destroyed for their wicked behavior** (6:5). So Noah and Canaan brought forward wicked lifestyle habits they had seen, habits that led to the demise of millions of people. So we can deduce that the consumption, (which began with one drink), led to poor judgment and sin.

We next see the consumption of alcohol connected with the cities of

Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19). Now we know from chapter 18, verse 20, that these two cities were very wicked, practicing habits of an ungodly sort. After Lot and his family were warned of the cities impending destruction, they were commanded to flee the cities in haste. Only Lot and his two daughters survived the aftermath. Lot and his daughters then fled to the mountain of Zoar. It is there Lot's two daughters, because they feared "presumptuously" that they were the only people left on earth, decided to get their father drunk so that they might have sexual relations with him (incest) and procure their seed line. Once again, the appropriate question is: Where did Lot's daughters learn the practice of alcohol consumption and its effects? From the wicked populous of Sodom and Gomorrah. Cities that were destroyed by God for their wicked ways.

From these two accounts in the book of Genesis, the consumption of alcohol is associated with sinful and wicked behavior. Why? Because of what alcohol does to the senses and judgment; it takes it away, in which then poor actions are taken. So from these two accounts we learn there is nothing "morally and ethically" good taken from the use of alcohol. It only serves to create problems and the potential for sin, which faithful Christians should avoid altogether. But does this message of the evils of consuming alcohol stop here? No. We'll continue our thoughts next week with a look at Exodus through John. May God be praised! **G.R.**

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

Keep On Keeping On

If the Lord doesn't return first, in a few days we will enter a New Year, 2015, according to secular calculation. We must not grow weary, and continue to abide in the Lord, continue in His word. We must continue pressing on if we are to dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psa.27:4). We must add godliness to our daily walk. If we become "weary in well-doing" (Gal. 6:9), we will surely fall short of reaching our destination. It is always onward and upward, never looking back as did Lot's wife (Lk. 17:32). The Bible continually challenges us to do better. Is it Satan's influence in our life that causes us to be content with giving less than our best to the Lord?

We will most surely fail in our goal of reaching heaven if we allow difficult moments to crush our spirits and dampen our hopes. Many people cannot enjoy the rainbow because they can't see through the storm.

"Though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. We look not at the things which are seen, but the things which are not seen: For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

To keep on keeping on, even when trouble and sorrow attend us, is a mark of true greatness, supreme loyalty and undaunted faith. And these are the things that make us strong.

As we approach the New Year, let us resolve to "Not grow weary in well doing", but "Keep on keeping on" toward the goal that is set before us. Resolve to study your Bible much, much more, and always stand strong in the faith.

"Therefore we ought to give more earnest heed to the things that were heard lest haply we drift away from them" (Heb. 2:1).

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



JANUARY 4

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *E. Hipp*
 Song Leader: *J. Oakes*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; R. Baltierra; S. Hernandez; J. Cardenas*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *S. McCardell*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Hipp; R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Mora*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, A. Maldonado; 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
 Ashton Balyeat
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)

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 JANUARY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Rodriguez
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Dorries
 Auditorium Service Duties:
C. Cobb
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
C. Cobb
 Brother in charge of services:
B. Dorries

AM Theme:
 Remembering Why We Started
 PM Theme:
 Setting The church In Order

AM Sermon:
Maintenance (4)

PM Sermon:
Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

December 24: E. Hipp
 December 31: J. Guillen
 January 7: R. Baltierra Jr.

FOR THE RECORD

DECEMBER 28

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	40
Sunday AM Worship	56
Sunday PM Worship	42
Wednesday Bible Study	NA
Budget/Offering:	\$2,450.00/ \$1,852.50

Weekly Bible Readers 6 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 San Antonio, TX 78230
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Fax: (210) 696-5181

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