

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 (2)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Everyone Needs The Savior Because of Eternity

An important relationship that “should” help Christians throughout their journey of life is marriage (ch. 7). Although life can be lived alone dedicated unto the Lord (7:38), the value of marriage is indispensable (cf. Eccl. 4: 9-11), but only when married couples avail themselves to God’s thoughts and guidance (Eph. 5: 22-33; 1 Pet. 3:1-4). Why is this necessary? Because as chapter 8 teaches, there are some difficult situations where good sense and judgment are needed, and who better to handle them with than another person whose interest is righteousness and godliness (e.g., Pr. 31:25).

One situation Paul deals with was the meat and drink offerings sacrificed unto idols (8:1a). Historians tell us that meat dedicated unto pagan idols was sold in the city’s meat market for profit and consumption (8:10). You then had some Christians, more likely new converts from the Jewish faith, which saw a problem with this, saying it was a sin for Christians (i.e., Gentile converts) to buy meat offered unto idols. Paul addressed these concerns.

First, he noted that knowledge has a tendency to inflate someone’s ego, while agape love (i.e., *seeking the best interest in others*) promotes true Christian growth (8:1b). The point made was, what is going to help any brotherly “crisis” is not what one ultimately knows, rather how one’s character responds to him or her in love (8:2-3).

Paul acknowledged that the issue was a moot point because an idol is nothing and there is only one God (8:4-6). But Paul acknowledged that some neophyte Christians whose “conscience” was “weak,” meaning a thought process that wasn’t fully developed (mature), would view this act as a sin (8:7). So what was Paul’s suggestion? To immediately stop any action that would cause a “weaker” brother to lament and wail over a “perceived” sinful action (8:9-13). And here lies the implied point. Until the weaker brother could properly reason and become stronger in his thought process, any “perceived” action would have to halt for growth to occur. And this all for the sake of unity and love; being patient with those who have yet to grow in knowledge. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after morning services. Everyone, especially our visitors our invited to stay and eat with us.

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.

The Rodriguez family are in Highlands, Tx, where Gabriel is involved in a Gospel effort.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's training class will be at 4:00 pm on January 25th. Ladies are asked to bring suggestions for a speaker for their 2nd Annual Ladies Day and prospective theme.

YOUTH

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 (2)

The view of alcoholic consumption in the Pentateuch was the same as mentioned in Genesis, with negativity. In Leviticus 10:9, Moses commanded that priests of God were not to "drink wine nor strong drink." Why? Lest they put not a "difference between what was holy and unholy... between unclean and clean" (10:10). Clearly, the effects of alcohol were given. Consuming alcoholic beverages would distort their mental faculties and judgment causing poor decision making.

In the book of Numbers, chapter 6, a discussion is given concerning man or woman who "separated themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite unto the Lord" (v.2). One of the stipulations given them was: "He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink...." (v. 3a). Once again, those who separated themselves unto God needed their mental faculties to be clear in order that good decision skills could be practiced and maintained.

Outside of the Pentateuch, during the history of Israel we read in 1 Samuel 25 of a man by the name of Nabal. Nabal was described as "churlish and evil in his doings" (v. 3c). We read of him later holding a "feast in his house, like the feast of a king: and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken" (v.36). We later read that his alcoholic addiction led to his untimely death (vss. 37-38).

In the poetic section of the Old Testament, the book of Proverbs, written by the famed and wise king Solomon, who had experienced everything life afforded (Eccl. 2:1-11), concluded this about the

consumption of alcohol: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is derived thereby is not wise" (20:1) and "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? That tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red...." (23:29-35). According to Solomon, consumption of alcohol was not wise, because it rendered its victim with a host of physical and emotional problems, which ultimately ended in spiritual separation from God. And finally in the book of Proverbs, there is the words of King Lemuel's mother in 31:4-7: "It is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish...." It is here that (once again) we read of what alcohol does to a person: it deadens the senses and perverts our ability to think rationally and clearly, and consequently, we make poor decisions that affect us. Solomon would say after experiencing "wine" (Eccl. 2:3) and its effects, "all is vanity and vexation of spirit, and there is no profit under the sun" (2:11). He concluded in the book of Ecclesiastes: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, where it be good, or whether it be evil" (12:13-14). If our actions will be judged by God, then doesn't it make sense to have full use of your mind?

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

Everyone Needs The Savior Because Of Eternity

"It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this cometh the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

This life is not all, and where we will be in the next life depends on how we live in this one. Jesus speaks of the judgment: "All that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment" (Jn. 5:28-29). Paul writes, "We must all be made manifest before the judgment set of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:10). Wise king Solomon said, "God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil" (Eccl.12:14). But after the judgment what is next? What then?

When Jesus describes the judgment in Matt. 25:31-46, he shows that He will separate the evil from the righteous. Then He says of the wicked "These shall go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." **Eternal.** The concept is difficult to grasp for human minds.

But that is the word Jesus used. How long will the righteous enjoy the waiting glories? **Eternity.** How long will the wicked be punished? **Eternity.** Heaven is pictured as the abode of God where He welcomes all the saints; no tears, no pain, no death, no sorrow.

Jesus describes hell, "Where the fire is not quenched and their worm dieth not...Cast them into the furnace of fire, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth...The eternal fire, which is prepared for the devil and his angels" (Mk. 9:48; Mt.13:42; 25:41). Each one of us needs the Savior, because we will spend eternity in either heaven or hell.

The jailer in Philippi asked, "What must I do to be saved?" He was told to believe, and when the gospel as preached to him, he was baptized the same hour of the night (Acts 16:30-34). Jesus, when some turned from Him, asked the disciples, "Would ye also go away?" Peter replied, "Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life" (Jno. 6:68) We can do without the money, prestige and power that worldly people pursue. But one thing we dare not be without is the Savior Jesus Christ. Our eternal destiny depends on that.

Where will you spend **Eternity**?

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 11

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *M. dela Garza; A. Martinez; J. Oakes; M. Neaves*
 Sermon: *Young Adult*
 Benediction: *J. Mokry*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *J. Oakes*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; E. Lerma*
 Sermon: *Young Adult*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *Z. Watkins*
 AV Duty: *J. Oakes*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, R. Baltierra; PM, G. Gribble*

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:
Open

PM Sermon:
Open

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 7: R. Baltierra Jr
 January 14: T. Mayces
 January 21: J. Oakes

FOR THE RECORD

January 4

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 49
 Sunday AM Worship 77
 Sunday PM Worship 41
 Wednesday Bible Study 39
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$2,323.25**

Weekly Bible Readers 7 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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