

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 (3)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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So now we arrive at the chapter in question. From the remote context we've concluded that “moral” and “opinionated” disputes among brethren were common and if not dealt with properly, the tragedy of disunity loomed. It was the “carnal” and “weak conscience” Christians that sought to derail the plan of God, but Paul skillfully gave words of practicality to help mend conflicting thoughts and actions of brethren. But now in chapter 9, questions from these same folks resulted in Paul being questioned for his authority in these matters. In other words, these “simpletons” were attempting to discredit Paul’s line of reasoning in these matters. But Paul retorted: “*Am I not an apostle?...for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord*” (vss. 1-2). The appellation “apostle” meant a delegate commissioned by God. Hence, Paul’s words did not simply come from him, rather they were given by the Lord Almighty (2 Tim. 3:16). And as such, his words were to be recognized and obeyed.

A further reading reveals that questions regarding the life of the apostles was also challenged. (This probably was from a few

extreme new convert Jews). But Paul met their complaints with: “*Have we not power to eat and drink?...to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles...have not we power to forbear working? Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who plants a vineyard, and eats not of the fruit thereof?...Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treated out the corn...If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?...Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things love of the things of the temple...Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel...*” (vss. 4-15).

A series of arguments were given to show neophyte Christians that he not only had the authority to speak, but also **to live under the support of the church** (if need be). His *common sense arguments* stemmed from nature, the animal kingdom, and the priesthood, to show he had the liberty and right to be supported. He concluded by saying that if he was a worker for the gospel then certainly he had every right to live off the gospel. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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 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

No news at this time.

YOUNG ADULT

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

AREA NEWS

No news at this time.

Social Drinking (3)

The prophetic books of the Old Testament demonstrated Israel's failures in all areas of life. The prophet Isaiah would say: "*Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward*" (1:4). But what led to their demise and dysfunction? What led to their minds being corrupted leading to sinful conduct and actions?

"But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way, the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, **they are swallowed up of wine**, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision they stumble in judgment" (Isa. 28:7).

"His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber...**Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink...**" (Isa. 56:10,12).

"For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the Lord. **Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart**" (Hosea 4:9-10).

"Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near...**That drink wine in bowls...**

Ye which rejoice in a thing of nought, which say, Have we not taken to us horns by our own strength" (Amos 6:3,6,13).

"Woe unto him that **giveth his neighbor to drink**, that putteth thy bottle to him, and **makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!**" (Habakk. 2:15).

It is very clear from these passages, the prophets partially blamed the consumption of alcohol for many of their woes. Why? Because as was already proven, alcohol perverts the judgment and sanity of men, causing them to not think sanely and critically; items needed in order to defeat sin and wickedness (cf. 1 Pet. 1:13-15).

So what do we learn from the Old Testament? That the consumption of alcohol was **ALWAYS** associated with sin and wickedness. **Never once was it mentioned in a situation that was wholesome, pure, and godly.** This should teach and reinforce what the Proverb writer said about it - stay as far from it, don't even look at it, for alcohol ruins everything it touches. It makes us lose the number one item God wants us to keep clear - our minds. Without a clear mind, then actions cannot be lived as God commanded, and furthermore, common sense is no longer available to us. We should guard our minds with all diligence (Pr. 4:23), and this would mean to stay far away from any and all drugs that alter our mind resulting in a mental breakdown. 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

Resolution: A Firm Decision To Do Something

The time for promises, pledges and personal commitments is upon us again. If you are like 45 percent of Americans who made a New Year's resolution (or two), you now find yourself knee deep in an all-out battle against bad habits and unhealthy behavior.

Last year's failures are a distant memory; this year you're filled with a newfound hope for making some significant and long-lasting changes.

You are to be congratulated! The first step to change is to self examine, and determine what needs to be different. Realistically, of those 45 percent who approach the New Year with determination, only about 8 percent will fully succeed with their New Year's goals.

According to recent research, the top three resolutions are losing weight, getting organized and spending less money.

But nowhere in this study of the top 10 list is being happier, reducing anxiety or stress, controlling anger, all of which most of us could strive toward.

This year I challenge you to focus on improving your spiritual life. This will be more attainable by Becoming A Living Sacrifice. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2).

- To Be Continued -

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 18

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.; M. Gibson; G. Rodriguez*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. dela Garza*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; M. Gibson*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Oakes*

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

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 (6)

PM Sermon:
The Order of Man and Woman (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

January 11

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 41
 Sunday AM Worship 71
 Sunday PM Worship 37
 Wednesday Bible Study 53
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,922.00**

Weekly Bible Readers NA (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