

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)

1 Corinthians 9 (5)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

Social Drinking (5)

*Shepherd's
Corner:*
Sin is Powerful

As was noted last week, there are different motives as to why men preach the gospel (Phil. 1:15-18) - some for fame, others for wealth, but the true reason should be to divulge the true message of God in order to help people save themselves from sin (Acts 2:38,40).

But to be more effective in God's ministry, Jesus said in Matthew 10:16, “*Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*” In other words, calculate a strategy and maintain a calm and righteous demeanor while enacting it. This is the same advice Paul gives in verses 19-23: “*For though I be free from all men...I made myself servant to all, that I might gain the more...I am made all things to all man, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.*” Paul spoke of strategy in order that the gospel might flourish. His plan was to become all things to all men, meaning to assimilate ourselves to people's lives and cultures in order to befriend them and open up doors of acceptance to the message of the gospel. But this advice is tempered with the what Jesus said in Matthew 7:6 and the example of Christ in Matthew 11:19;

both of which teach that assimilation doesn't mean engaging in sinful activity.

Christians are never given the authority to participate in “*unfruitful works of darkness*” (Eph. 5:11), rather we are to “*reprove them.*” So, Paul's strategy is not calling for engaging in sinful behavior, rather he's encouraging Christians (i.e., preachers) to find ways to befriend people (that are consistent with wholesomeness and righteousness) in order to build a relationship, which will be useful (in time) as we find opportunities to preach and teach them the will of God.

Also, our motive for befriendng others should never be feign, rather we should earnestly and genuinely seek to know people and their lives. To get know someone is to understand them and possibly (in time) help them with knowledge and advice from the will of God. Paul understood this first hand because as a Jew he was commanded to preach to the Gentiles (Acts 13:47) whom he had to get to know first in order to build up trust and a relationship for the sake of the gospel. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship lunch will be next Sunday, February 8, after the morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

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.

YOUTH

The young people will meet at the Rodriguez home on February 13th at 7:00 pm for their youth devotional. All our young people are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for February 27th at 7:00 pm. We're still looking for a host for this event. Please see either Austin or Stephen.

AREA NEWS

No news at this time.

Social Drinking (5)

In the passion of Christ, Christ continued to teach and practice righteousness (1 Pet. 2:21-24). In our discussion of alcohol, Jesus engages in a noteworthy incident that dispels a major reason why people drink alcohol. As Jesus hung on the cross the Roman authorities attempted to give him "*vinegar mingled with gall*" to drink (Matt. 27:34). Gall was some type of analgesic that altered the state of mind, which in turn would help him with the pain he was enduring. But Jesus rejected the drink, showing his strength and resolve (in time of pain and despair), to not take anything that would alter his state of mind and condition. In other words, Jesus maintained himself and fought through the pain with a clear mind. He understood that a clear mind is always needed to sustain oneself in the extreme pressures of life. Why? Because it is then that our emotions and feelings attempt to usurp our intellect. Therefore, a clear thought process is critical. It is interesting that when people are asked why they dabble with alcohol, one of the reasons is, to forget about their woes and pain. In other words, they don't want to think anymore, but would rather sulk in despair by deadening the mind and senses.

As been noted, alcohol alters the state of mind (Pr. 31:5-7). But in times of distress, the mind is needed even more to make wise decisions. When faced with difficult situations many people's first response is to give up or act out impetuously, without thinking. What then occurs

is poor decision making, which actually enflames and worsens our situation. With a clear mind we can think of solutions and resolve to fight through whatever is put before us, but when someone's mind has been altered it makes it difficult.

The mind is what God desires to be used in all things (Pr. 4:23; 23:7). Without the mind, then we become slaves to our situations and emotions/feelings (Rom. 7:5). Therefore, the protection of the mind from drugs which seek to alter our mental faculties becomes a sin. This description is given under the works of the flesh as "*witchcraft*" (Gal. 5:20). Our word "*pharmacy*" comes from this particular word. It's definition is, a poison injected into our bodily system which alters the state of mind. Sorcery involved giving drugs to its victims to alter their state of mind in order to deceive them. A person who didn't have full use of his mental faculties was then susceptible to this lie. Thus, God commanded that any drug altering our intellectual prowess was to be avoided!

As Christians, we would do well to heed to this example of Christ and maintain a lucid intellect in order to conquer problems that will arise in our lives. Our minds need to be focused and ready to make good decisions, which in turn will help us to defeat sin. Avoid (at all costs) drugs that alter our 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

Sin Is Powerful

We need to realize the power of sin. Why did God require obedience? Was it to keep us from enjoying the good things of life? Moses answers, "For our good always" (Deut. 6:24). We need to see what sin does to us. Sin is the great separator, which is why Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God" (Isa. 59:2). As wise king Solomon wrote, "By the fear of the Lord, men depart from evil" (Prov. 16:6). Because Israel rebelled against God, a whole generation perished in the desert (Num. 14:22-32). Their unbelief and disobedience is a warning to us today: "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God...To whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that were disobedient? And we see they were not able to enter in because of unbelief. Let us fear therefore" (Heb. 3:12-19; 4-1).

Sin kills. There is no pretty way to say it. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die...The wages of sin is death...Sin full grown bringeth forth death" (Ezek. 18:20; Rom 6:23; Jas. 1:14). Only when we recognize the power which sin has will we be willing to turn from it (Lk. 13:3). It is too easy to deceive ourselves with the idea of "everyone is doing it" and "everyone makes mistakes" and so belittle in our own mind what the real effect of sin is. It is true that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). But it is also true that "the whole world lieth in the evil one" (1 Jno. 5:19). It will be no comfort to be eternally lost with a host of others who are as bad as we are! It was because of sin, yours and mine, that Jesus went to the cross: "That he by the grace of God should taste of death for every man" (Heb. 2:9). If sin was (and is) terrible enough to cost the life of God's only son, it's power in our lives today should not be minimized.

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 1

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Lerma; J. Mora; R. Trevino; R. Baltierra*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Cardenas*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *J. Oakes*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. Neaves*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Hernandez*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, G. Gribble; PM, J. Mora*

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)

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; Mayces

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

PM Sermon:
The Leaders of Men (1)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

January 25

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 56
 Sunday AM Worship 70
 Sunday PM Worship 46
 Wednesday Bible Study 50
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$2,094.00**

Weekly Bible Readers 7 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.
 San Antonio, TX 78230
 (210) 696-5532

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