

# 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)

## “The Greatest of These is Love”

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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The church of Christ in Corinth had many problems. One in particular, as mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12-13, was the *incessant arguments* over who possessed the best spiritual gifts (12:1-11). Paul helped the brethren to understand, using the symbol of the human body, that each constituent part was important (12: 12-26). In other words, it didn't matter what spiritual gift you possessed, everyone played a role in the grand scheme of things. This is why Paul concluded with this statement: “*Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular... Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?*” (12:27-30).

But Paul noted (though) one gift more valuable than all, which the members were to “*earnestly covet*” (12:31), and that gift was “*love*” (13:1-3). Without the demonstration of love, all of their efforts would mean nothing. Paul then described what he meant by love, in the midst of brotherly conflict: “*Love is patient and kind;*

*does not envy or boast; is not arrogant or rude; does not insist on its own way; is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things*” (13: 4-7).

Through their trials, Paul encouraged the brethren to set aside caustic attitudes and remember the vintage enduring attitude of love to bind them together in great unity (13:7a).

And in a shocking revelation, Paul was asking why so much stock was put on the spiritual gifts any way, because when that which was “perfect” was come, referring to the “the perfect law of God,” the spiritual gifts (i.e., miraculous powers) would be done away with (13:7b-10, cf. Jas. 1:25, 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Hence, it was the intention of God that His word continue, not the “childish” spiritual gifts (13:11-12). So in this context, out of obedience (faith), expectation (hope), and seeking the best interest of another (love), Paul said, “*the greatest of these is love*” (13:13).

# THE WORDS OF ELIHU (3)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today in the annex building after our morning service. We welcome our visitors to stay and fellowship with us.

Due to the Southwest School of Bible Studies graduation ceremonies in Austin, the elders have decided to reconvene for evening worship at 2:00 pm, so that members who wish to attend the gradation can do so.

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class will be at 4:00 on July 26th. The ladies will cover lesson 6 in their book and Bro. Bill Dorries will overview the book of Micah.

The ladies' get-together will be on July 23, while the men's dinner will be on July 28th. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

We need volunteers for the following activities in August: Family and Youth Devotional. See Elwyn if you can help host one of these events.

### YOUTH

There will be no youth devotional for the month of July. Enjoy your summer!

### YOUNG ADULT

The young devotional is scheduled for July 24. More details to come later.

### AREA NEWS

There are area meetings for adults and youth in the area. Please check bulletin board in foyer for more information.

During Elihu's response to Job in chapter 33, Elihu reminds Job of several things. First, he reminds Job that his complaints have been founded upon mere speculation, not facts; therefore, why does Job strive against God? In other words, once we have all the facts (Pr. 18:13), then we can speak and make statement, but until then, we must remain silent and search out the matter (vss. 9-13). Second, when God chooses to reveal his purposes of life, and man seeks to understand through deep meditation and pondering, then he'll know that poor experiences of life are meant to teach us about the fragility of life (vss. 14-22). And third, when the tests of life are passed with obedience and humility, God will save us in the end (vss. 23-28).

In great figurative language, Elihu communicates three great lessons that we can learn from as New Testament Christians. First, before we assert something, make sure we have all the facts. This is why we must investigate claims thoroughly, in order to leave off speculations and assumptions (Deut. 17:1-7). In the case of Job, we do have the facts, and the facts were, God wasn't causing the problems of Job, rather he was allowed to go through a series of trials (by the hands of Satan) to test his faithfulness and righteousness, which the text says he accomplished (1:21). Hence, the same occurs today as the natural world (through time and chance events, Eccl. 9:11) and evil men (acting on the behalf of Satan, Pr. 10:1-9) cause us problems. These occur, just as Job, for the

purpose of testing our faithfulness and righteousness unto God (1 Pet. 1:7; 2:18-24). Second, as God reveals the purpose of life and we meditate upon it, we then come to the understanding that difficulties of life were meant to be positive, not negative. In other words, pain was allowed by God to help us grow and instruct us. This is why James tells us to "*count it all joy when we fall into divers trials of life*" (1:2). Count it all joy when you experience pain? How absurd! But why? Because trials of life offer us positive instruction - "*the trying of your faith works patience*" (1:3). We learn how to preserve, depend upon God, and discipline ourselves to see us through difficult moments of life. Third, if and whenever we pass the trials of life with obedience (during time and chance events and evil choices of men) and humility (confessing fault because of poor decision making), then God shall "*deliver our soul from going into the pit, and our lives shall see the light*" (33:28).

Elihu ends by saying, "*Mark well, O Job, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I will speak. If thou hast anything to say, answer me: speak, for I desire to justify thee. If not, hearken unto me: hold thy peace, and I shall teach thee wisdom*" (33:31-33). In other words, Elihu has declared truth and common sense to issues that Job has brought forth and encountered. Therefore, Job is commanded to learn and listen from the wisdom he gives. 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

### From Where Do We Learn The Moral Standard?

Nowhere in God's Word does it support becoming like those around us. Rather, He shows a contrast between the world and His own; and offers the challenge: "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing: and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2 Cor. 6:17-18). God doesn't want His children fraternizing with the enemy, nor becoming attracted by the ranks of popularity! The multitude will never devise a right way, so God has warned: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment" (Exo. 23:2). Playing to the grandstand never meets God's approval; and for good reason: "O Lord, I know that the way of a man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). Man founders more and more in sin when he seeks to chart his own course! It is so easy to be deceived and deluded: "There is a way that seemeth right unto man; but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov.14:12). Don't become so wound up in worldly pursuits that you lose sight of the all important goal! "Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). Nothing else matters (MK. 8;36-37)!

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All His wonderful passion and purity;  
O my Savior divine, All my being refine, Till the beauty of  
Jesus be seen in me. - E. Edwin Young  
**Bro. W. 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



## July 12

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; S. Hernandez; Z. Watkins; T. Mayces*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:1-5*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *S. Hernandez*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; R. Baltierra Jr*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*  
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 Elder in charge: *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  
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)  
 Anthony Harris Sr  
 Ina Dial  
 David Sudhoff  
 Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Gerri Mayces (medical issues)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)  
 Mayces Family (Tom's mother, Lucille, passed away last Sunday)

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Edna Wilks (*in remission*)      Abigail Reyes  
 Lydia Cowan      George Jackson  
 Briana Nieves      Sonny Cary  
 Mary Purkey      Elwyn Hipp  
 Graciola Anderson      Zeke Watkins

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Mary Louese Hughes  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Baltierras

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JULY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:

*C. Empett/S. Schandua*

Preparing Lord's Supper:

*White*

Auditorium Service Duties:

*White*

Wash baptismal garments; clean cry

room

*White*

Brother in charge of services:

*J. Guillen*

AM Theme:

*"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms*

PM Theme:

*Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus*

AM Sermon:

*Psalms 10*

PM Sermon:

*"The Love of Money is the Root of all Evil"*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

July 15: *E. Lerma*

July 22: *B. Dorries*

July 29: *W. Holmes*

## FOR THE RECORD

### July 5

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      42  
 Sunday AM Worship      68  
 Sunday PM Worship      27  
 Wednesday Bible Study      38  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$1,647.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:  
 8/30 (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](mailto: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