

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)

How Should We Approach God in Worship? (2)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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We noticed last week, those who approach God in worship must be holy and pure, without sin (cf. 1 Jn. 1:5). In response, some have come up with the excuse, “Well, I’m only human and I sin daily, thus preventing me from presenting myself holy and pure.” This statement is affront to God’s word which tells us differently, that we can overcome sin (1 Cor. 10:13), because sin is a choice (Deut. 30:15-16), and if sin is a choice, then I can choose to live righteously daily (Isa. 7:15-16; Jas. 1:16; Col. 4:12).

Far too long we’ve been fed the lie that it’s just impossible to defeat sin. The question one has to ask himself is: Which is more powerful? Sin or righteousness? A more appropriate question is: Has God prepared us (fortified us) for the challenges of life? The clear answer is Yes! God created us with everything needed to conquer life in what is called the mind. The mind is the control center of life (Pr. 4:23) and is responsible for everything we do and not do. The mind contains the possibility of logic, reason, common sense, will power

(discipline), and self-examination (conscience) (2 Tim. 1:7). With all of these tools available to us, one would be a fool to continue to make excuses for falling into the mire of sin.

Everyday we are given life is a day in which challenges present themselves in the form of temptations. But according to Jas. 1:12-15, these temptations are merely tests to try our commitment unto God. So, either we pass the test or we fail it, and all of this is dependent upon our commitment to do what is right; choosing the good and refusing the evil. This has nothing to do with the strength of the temptation, because temptations have no real strength unless we empower them. This is why in Matthew 4:4-11 when Jesus was tempted, the temptations had no real power because Jesus empowered himself (strengthened his mind), coupled with his knowledge and understanding of God’s word, and was able to defeat the wiles of the devil and become triumphant. We can, and must, approach God in purity! May God be praised!

THE WORDS OF ELIHU (2)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, July 12th, after morning services. Because of the Southwest School of Bible Studies graduation ceremonies that evening in Austin, the elders have decided to reconvene for evening worship at 2:00 pm, so that members who wish to attend the graduation can do so. Thanks.

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.

After listening to the exchange between Job and his three friends (more elder than he), Elihu responded by saying, *"Behold I waited for your words; I gave ear to your reasons, while you searched out what to say. Yea, I attended unto you, and behold, there was none of you that convinced (refuted) Job, or who answered his words"* (32:11-12). According to Elihu, not one of Job's three friends had satisfactorily responded to Job's confusion and questions about his crisis. Elihu argued that only God's wisdom, not man's wisdom, could answer Job's concerns (32:13, cf. 1 Cor. 1:27-28). Therefore, Elihu would take a *different approach* in answering Job's concerns (32:14).

Utilizing "true godly wisdom" based on *logic and common sense*, Elihu declared a general statement: *"They are dismayed; they answer no more; they have not a word to say. And I shall wait, because they do not speak, because they stand there, and answer no more?"* (32:15-16). In other words, once he communicated the wisdom from God, no one could or would retort to his arguments, for they would be sound.

Elihu was ready to share his message and likened it to fermented wine, ready to burst. (32:17-20). He noted that his message would not show partiality, nor would he respect one above another (32: 21-22). In other words, he would tell it like it was!

In Elihu's first speech to Job, he acknowledged his righteous intent and sincere motive in speaking to him (33:1-3). He recognized that it was God who made him and endowed him with his thinking and

communication abilities (33:4). So utilizing these qualities, Elihu asked Job to listen to his words, and if need be, respond to them (33:5).

Elihu acknowledged, as Job had acknowledged, that he was merely a product and creation of God; therefore, he recognized that being made of the same substance, Elihu was no better than Job, but that he was simply there to help him understand his crisis (33:6-7).

Elihu begins by citing the complaint of Job saying, *"I am clean without transgression, I am innocent, neither is there iniquity in me. Behold, he finds occasion against me, he counts me for his enemy. He puts my feet in the stocks, he marks all my paths"* (33: 8-11). Elihu responded by saying, *"Behold, in this thou art not just; I will answer thee, that God is greater than man. Why do you strive against him? for he gives not account of his matters. For God speaks once, yea, twice, yet man perceives it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleeps falls upon men...Then he opens the ears of men, and terrifies them with warnings"* (33:12-16).

Elihu makes some excellent points in his response. First, man (*at prima facie*) doesn't have the right to ask why things happen, rather he must seek to understand why they've happened. Second, what ever happens in life, while it may seem counter intuitive, happens for a reason. Not that the reason is because God caused it, rather as people and nature interact, circumstances of life arise and we must be ready to deal and learn from it. 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

Christian, Why Try To Be Like The World?

When Samuel was old, and his sons were corrupt and worthless, Israel asked of him: "Make us a king like all the nations." Samuel prayed to God, who told him to give them a king; but He warned of the hardships the action would bring. They were still adamant, saying, "We will have a king over us; that we may be like all the nations." God did not like this, and told Samuel: "They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them" (1 Sam. 8:5-20). The people lodged no charge against Samuel as their judge: they just wanted to conform to the world! But in doing so, they rejected God, their Deliverer and Protector! They wanted a king that would make them accepted by the society in which they lived!

It is a sad commentary on our times that this unacceptable evil still plagues the children of God! Paul wrote to saints in his day: "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye walk no longer as the Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind" (Eph, 4:17). How often the lustful thinking and immoral behavior of the world hangs as a dark cloud over the church as well! Our movie and television fare illustrates just how far the world has eroded the lives of God's people! The sexually offensive movies and un-funny comedies seep into our thinking, and are deposited in our living rooms! Saints of God must never determine right and wrong by what others around them practice! Yet influence of the world is taking its toll! Our young people are challenging spiritual standards, and justifying sinfulness, with the lame excuse: "But, everybody is doing it! Come out of the dank ages!"

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies" (Psalm 18:1-3).

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 5

AM WORSHIP

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

Scripture: *Ps. 23*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. Neaves*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; E. Lerma*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Hernandez*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

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)
 Ball Family (Sister Ball lost her son Howard)

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); Dorries;
 Baltierras, B. Garcia

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:
Psalm 9

PM Sermon:
"Making Merchandise of You" (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 24: *T. Mayces*
 July 1: *A. Maldonado*
 July 8: *R. Baltierra*

FOR THE RECORD

June 28

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 36
 Sunday AM Worship 54
 Sunday PM Worship 31
 Wednesday Bible Study 28
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,677.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:
 7/19 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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