

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 Do We Know the Bible is God’s Word? (5)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

Isaiah 55 (1)

*Shepherd’s  
Corner:*  
Christians and  
the World

We *know* the Bible is God’s word because it is *consistent* with reality and common sense. Although there are some difficult passages to understand and seem to contradict reality and common sense, is it possible that more study and investigation needs to occur before a definite conclusion can be made? Yes! But more importantly, knowledge seekers must be aware that there is a process of understanding. In other words, it is not as simply reading a section of Scripture and then coming to a conclusion based on presuppositions and our current knowledge of words/understanding. No! In order to understand the Scriptures, there is a specific procedure that must be followed. This practice is referred to “*hermeneutics*” - the art and science of interpretation. In other words, we must discover the intent and message of the one who gave it. Why is this important? Because the giver of the message included “**one**” intended meaning. Therefore, it is up to the recipients to discover its meaning.

But what is the mode of operation? We begin with the 5 W’s - who, what, where, when, and why? Who wrote the document, what was written (*word study, grammar, et. al*), where was it written (*cultural information*), when was it written (*historical information*), and then why was it written (*contextual study*). Once time has been spent researching these items and meditation give to them, then we can start making conclusions, (*but be reminded that our conclusions must fit with reality and common sense*). In other words, what we interpret must make sense with the world around us, how it functions. When we begin to add thoughts and ideas foreign to reality and common sense, this is when we begin to add ideas the author never intended, leading to misinterpretations, false doctrine, false living, ending in chaos and ruin. Hence, it is important we get the message right and this begins by following the “common sense” process of interpretation. May God be praised!

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after morning service. All visitors are welcomed to stay and eat with us.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training class will be at 4:00 pm on June 28th. The ladies will cover lesson 5 in the book, Seasoning Your Words.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for June 17th, hosted by Celia Empett. There will be a special project from 12 - 4 and then youth devotional from 4-6:30 pm. All our young kids are encouraged to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

The young adults will be meeting at *Altitude Trampoline Park* next to Regal Huebner Oaks movie theater on June 26th. You're requested to be there by 7:15, because jump time will be between 7:30-9:30. The cost is \$16 per person (bring cash). Also, those attending need to fill out a waiver online before arriving. Thanks.

### AREA NEWS

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

## ISAIAH 55 (1)

God reminded the nation of Israel that in order to correct their sinful situation, a desire (*a craving*) to obey God's will was needed: *"Ho, every one that thirsts come ye to the waters, and he that has no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price...Incline you ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David"* (vss. 1,3). And the reason why God needed Israel to restore herself and be obedient was because Israel was called to be an example to the nations that surrounded them was to lead and guide them unto righteousness: *"Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knows not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God..."* (vss. 4-5).

So God told Israel the urgency of the call: *"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near"* (v. 6). In other words, don't allow the temptations/influences of life to form bad habits within you, causing you to lose your soul. God encouraged Israel to make up their minds to get rid of sinful thoughts and actions, so that the plan of God (*Israel's example of righteousness*) would bear fruit: *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon"* (v. 7).

So how was Israel going to accomplish God's purpose? By instilling God's thoughts into their own thoughts, leading them to produce righteous actions/fruits: *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts"* (vss. 8-9).

Once the nation of Israel would produce righteous actions, Israel would become the example God desired of them, to bring souls unto Him. The metaphor used to indicate what He meant was that of rain: *"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater"* (v. 10). Hence, God's people were likened unto rain water, (which incidentally was the purest of all waters ancient man desired), which was responsible for the earth's production of seed and bread, items needed to sustain mankind. The message is, our thoughts which produce actions is responsible for the production of fruit within mankind. In other words, our example sustains the world in right conduct and character. We bring life and stability to a world that is perishing in sin. God desired His people in every generation to procure life and blessings to all mankind. We refresh the world that is experiencing the drought of sin and wickedness. 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

### Christians And The World

We are informed that about 65% of all patients in hospital beds are there because of nervous disorder, mental fatigue and psychological pressures. In other words, we are too tightly wound up by, and with, the world! Frequently the spring snaps when we allow others to "badger" us into keeping up with the Joneses, without rationally evaluating the tastes of the Jones family! Rest assured that if we allow the world to "wind us up," the world will also determine the course that we travel! One who follows Jesus Christ in the fullness of faith will rise above the fog and smog of worldly thinking; and will walk with confidence in "the way of holiness."

A true disciple will not be too overly concerned with what this world thinks and does! The criteria for Christian behavior is found in Paul's words: "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2). The Christian not only refuses to be made over in the likeness of the world, but by transforming self, he also is transforming the world! He becomes a "non-conforming transformer" whose influence for good salts the earth!

The Christian's attitude must be formed by the right application of principles. As Peter warned, "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in your ignorance" (1 Pet. 1:14). James was even more plain and more forceful: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4). What has the world to offer that would enrich the Christian?

**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



## June 14

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; M. Neaves; J. Mokry; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Luke 23:44-49*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Cardenas*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *M. Gibson*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; E. Lerma*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*  
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*  
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*  
 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  
 Eloise Creek  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Gerri Mayces (medical issues)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes	Johna Dorries
Edna Wilks	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)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JUNE

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*P. White*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Holmes*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Mora*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*NA*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*E. Hipp*

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 6*

PM Sermon:  
*Lead by Example!*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 3: *E. Hipp*  
 June 10: *J. Guillen*  
 June 17: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

## FOR THE RECORD

### June 7

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 53  
 Sunday AM Worship 71  
 Sunday PM Worship 56  
 Wednesday Bible Study 40  
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$3,247.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:  
 NA (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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