

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?

Gabriel Rodriguez

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This is a point that many don't think about often, but God desires us to be *free of sin* whenever we approach Him. This makes sense, but it's a point we've been too lenient in making because of our "*inveterate excuse*" of being human and weak. But this is simply not the case! The Bible says we were made in the image of God, meaning we're more than capable of defeating sin (1 Cor. 10:13), and furthermore, the logic isn't there - if God is holy and in him is no darkness at all (1 Jn. 1:5) and He hates all workers of iniquity (Ps. 4:4-5), then doesn't this mean that sinners have no place before Him. Let me explain the difference between an un-repentant and repented sinner. The Bible is not talking about people who choose to sin (Deut. 30:15), recognize their mistake (Jas. 4:8-10), stop doing it (Acts 26:20), and learn from it (Ezek. 18:21-23). These are repented sinners and can worship before God. Whom God disdains are those that defiantly reject His will (Heb. 10:26) and reject repentance (2 Cor. 7:10-11). These people are an affront to God. What God demands and

requires when we approach Him are righteous lives, or else our sacrifice of praise doesn't go beyond the ceiling. We have to approach God, morally and ethically righteous, suppressing and getting rid of wicked habits of mind (Col. 1:21-22). This point was clearly made after Israel was restored from captivity and given the authority (from the Persians) to rebuild the temple and wall of Jerusalem. Before the people of Israel could present themselves before God, Ezra said, "*...and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the Lord God of Israel...*" (6:21) could approach God in worship. We read in Ezra 9-10 that the people of Israel put away foreign wives and children, and in Nehemiah 9 the people of Israel repented and confessed their sins. This was needed before any worship could take place. Likewise, before we approach a Holy and Righteous God, our lives must be corrected and we must maintain a righteous life (1 Pet. 1:13-15). May God be praised!

THE WORDS OF ELIHU (1)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will cover lesson 5 in the book, Seasoning Your Words.

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 Job's tragedies of life (Chps. 1-2), "*Job's three friends heard all this evil that was come upon him...for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him...So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great*" (Job 2:11,13). After Job expressed his grief and confusion in his matter of suffering, the friends of Job sought to give him (*what they thought and assumed*) was a logical response to Job's troubles - that he had sinned and was being punished for it (5:17). After a lengthy back and forth from Job and his friends, Job expressing his innocence from sin and Job's friends charging him of sin, a fourth friend, named Elihu, entered the discussion. What is remarkable about the words of Elihu is that they come from a young man whose knowledge is precise and beyond his years. Let's investigate the words of Elihu.

CHAPTER 32

Job's three friends "*ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes*" (v. 1). After listening to the arguments given from both sides, Elihu was angered at what he had heard, raised up his voice, and began to deal with two issues he felt needed to be addressed. First, the self-righteousness of Job (v.2) and second, the empty answers/responses given to Job by his friends, which eventually served to condemn him presumptuously (v.3).

The text tells us that Elihu "*had waited till Job had spoken, because they were elder than he*" (v. 4). But once Job's friends finished their

declarations, Elihu's wrath was kindled at them because "*there was no answer in the mouth of Job's three friends*" (v. 5). Elihu then stated, "*I am young, and ye are very old, wherefore I was afraid, and durst not show you my opinion. I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom. But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding. Great men are not always wise: neither of the aged understand judgment*" (vss. 6-9).

Elihu made a startlingly revelation, **agedness doesn't always make one wise**. We tend to think, and rightly so, that as a person ages their experiences create wisdom, and this wisdom helps the young (cf., Lev. 19:32); *but Elihu discovered that this is not always the case*. Elihu understood that wisdom requires, first, knowledge, and second, but more importantly, understanding, meaning we interpret the knowledge correctly. This why Elihu mentioned the mind and understanding in verse 8. In order to properly obtain wisdom, individuals must think (rationally, logically, and with common sense) and understand, and in this context, what is truly happening to Job and Job's response to it. So Elihu's point is well taken, not everyone is wise and understands judgment. What this means is, since age is not a factor for acquiring wisdom, then the young can come to an accurate conclusion of the matter. Hence, Elihu, the youth among them, was going to teach them all what was truly happening to Job and what Job's response should have been. 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

As God's Children We Are To Be Separated From The World

Although living in the world, the disciple of Christ is separated from the world. "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (Jno. 15:19). Our thanks must reach God, "Who hath delivered us out of the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13). This was accomplished when we were "buried with him by baptism into death" that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

The complete meaning of this is shown in these words: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Thus we are programmed to walk in another direction! "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on this earth" (Col. 3:1-2). How tragic that some around the world are all wound up in material things of this earth, and not rich toward God! Time cannot compare with eternity!

"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

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 28

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; T. Mayces; J. Mora; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Matt. 26:26-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *Open; R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *G. Rodriguez*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*
 Greeter/Usher: *R. Baltierra*
 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
 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

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 8

PM Sermon:
Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

June 21

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 52
 Sunday AM Worship 75
 Sunday PM Worship 41
 Wednesday Bible Study 49
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,944.00**

Weekly Bible Readers:
 11/30 (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