

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)

RISE ABOVE YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The Majority Is Not Always Right. Abraham Was In The Minority!

The account of Job is inspirational. It teaches that man is capable of overcoming difficult passages of life. But what will it take to rise above onerous circumstances? Chapter 1, verse 1, gives us the answer: “*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, eschewed evil.*” To rise above formidable challenges of life a man’s character **MUST** be perfect (*complete*), righteous, respectful of God, and have a utter disdain for wickedness. Job possessed all of these traits and became well-suited for the unfortunate vicissitudes of life. But in order to really know what Job was made of, his character needed to be tested (cf. 1 Pet. 1:7).

It’s one thing to say, it’s another to actually go through an event to test whether one’s character is truly genuine. This is exactly what occurred. In verses 6-10, we see God allow “*Satan*” to test the character of Job through great trials of life. This way one could see whether the claim made in verse 1 would be falsified. So the trials came one by one - bandits killed his servants and took away his

livestock (wealth), and natural disasters killed his family and livestock (1:13-19).

So what was Job’s response to these vicissitudes of life? Would he fold in character? Would he blame God? Would he reject righteousness and holiness? “*Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly*” (vss. 20-22). Job remained true to who he was! Job maintained himself because his character was saturated in righteousness and holiness. In other words, Job was mature in his thought process and used his mind to combat negative responses (i.e., *emotions*) that would overtake a lesser man. Job had already made up his mind that whatever happened to him, he would not allow negative experiences to change his character. Job rose above his circumstances and validated his statement of character. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, March 8, after our morning service. The menu is *healthy* potluck.

There will be a baby shower (boy) for Jimmy and Jessica Cardenas today from 2-4 pm. They are registered at Target and Babies R Us.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be hosted by the Baltierra's. The date and time to be announced later.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional will be hosted by the Rodriguez's on March 27 at 7:00 pm. The menu will be healthy salads and soups. All young adults are encouraged to attend.

AREA NEWS

The Galena Park church of Christ is hosting a youth meeting/camping trip, April 25-26, for age groups 12-22 at Palmetto State Park. Brother Gabriel Rodriguez will be speaking on the topic: "Going Against the Tide." If anyone is interested in attending, please see Bro. Rodriguez. More information in the foyer.

Life or Death (1)

In this article series we are going to chronicle the phenomena of life and death. Which does God care about more? Which does He emphasize with regard to human beings? We'll eventually head to a discussion of Christ. Seeing there is a fascination with the death of Christ for our sins (cf. Rom. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:20; Heb. 9:28), we'll investigate the Bible more deeply as to what these passages mean. Does death triumph over all things? Is death what we should be focused on? We begin our thought process in the book of Genesis - the book of beginnings. What we find in chapters 1 and 2 is a discussion on **LIFE**. The mind of God (*life itself*) gave rise to matter (*physical*) through communication (1:3, cf. Jn. 1:1-3) and infused it with life - "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters*" (vss. 1-2). All natural reality was birthed by the Giver of Life - the firmament, seas, land, plants, grass, sun, moon, fish, birds, land animals, and humans (Ex. 20:11). So, in the beginning the world teemed with life and life was the only reality (1:30); no death existed, no sickness experienced, and no hardships were present. Everything was good and pleasant (Gen. 1:31).

So we can see that in the beginning *the focus* was on **LIFE**. God prepared a world where life could thrive and flourish. He created a perfect world, with a perfect ecosystem, sustained

by a perfect intelligence. God's goal and desire for the world was to **MAINTAIN LIFE**. Interestingly, God put in the midst of man's habitation (the garden of Eden) a tree named "*the tree of life*" (2:9) and "*a river*" - water of life (2:10-14, cf. Jn. 4:9-10). So if the first chapters of the Bible is dedicated to life, what does this teach us about this discussion - Life or Death? Since God painstakingly prepared a world where life was the only focus, why then has the subject of death become so mainstream in religious circles? Why does death trump the subject of life? Is it because we've really never understood the subject of life and its importance?

Not only does Genesis focus on physical life, but it also focuses on *spiritual life*, meaning utilizing the mind (*intellect*) that God gave us to make choices that support and maintain life (Gen. 2:16-17). You see, life includes the aspect of free moral agency. How so? With respect to human beings, our lives are dependent upon making good choices. While nature is self-governed and sustains life innately, we on the other hand, are creatures of freewill that either can choose life or its consequence - death. This is why, although life is championed in the beginning, it is up us, through mental exercise, to make sure life remains intact. As we'll see next week, life wasn't sustained and consequently, **death was man's awakening to the importance of life**. 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

The Majority Is Not Always Right. Abraham Was In The Minority!

Abraham was a very important man in his day, and one of the richest men in history! But he never was privileged to stand with the majority. He was a devout worshipper of God, yet he came from a background of idolatry, and his father seemed to treasure his idols until he died! God told Abraham, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee" (Gen. 12:1). From the time Abraham got to the land God promised, he stood alone! He was never to vote with the majority! Yet, one man with God is a majority; and Abraham cast his vote with the Lord! "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place he should receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:8-10). His vote was cast, and Abraham would devote all his days to serving God!

After Abraham entered into the land God had promised, he was still not with the majority! He was to live among wicked people, but he still lived righteously. Abraham knew that the majority was not right as they kneeled before their idols, their lives filled with sinful practices. His eyes never shifted from his goal of serving God with his whole being. He was in the minority when he called together his servants (his household), and went to rescue his nephew, Lot, from five kings who had taken Lot and his goods (Gen. 14). Yes, the majority was against him, but Abraham knew the majority was not right.

Where do you stand, are you with the majority, or with God? Abraham stood with God. He did it. You are able to do it. We encourage you to take your stand with God, never wavering, whatever happens.

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



March 1

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *Baltierra Jr; S. Hernandez; J. Cardenas; M. Neaves*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *G. Rodriguez*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; J. Guillen*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*
 AV Duty: *M. De La Garza*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*
 Parking Lot Attendant: *AM, E. Hipp; PM, A. Maldonado*

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
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Zeke Watkins
 Carolyn Harris
 Bill Dorries' sister-in-law (Rose)
 Gerri Mayces (medical issues)
 Rameriz Family (loss of loved ones)

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

DEPLOYED:

James Braun (Nephew of Michael) (Navy).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MARCH

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Mora
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Holmes
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Mora
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
Open
 Brother in charge of services:
R. Baltierra

AM Theme:
 Contend Earnestly For The Faith
 PM Theme:
 Setting The church In Order

AM Sermon:
We Destroy Ourselves!

PM Sermon:
"Behave Thyself"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

February 28: *W. Holmes*
 March 4: *G. Rodriguez*
 March 11: *M. De la Garza*

FOR THE RECORD

FEBRUARY 22

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	46
Sunday AM Worship	66
Sunday PM Worship	44
Wednesday Bible Study	52
Budget/Offering:	\$2,450.00/ \$1,349.00

Weekly Bible Readers:
 13 out of 24 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 (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