

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)

Who Are God’s True People?

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

True Worship (5)

*Shepherd’s
Corner:*

**There Are Those
That Hate All
That Is Good**

The Bible plainly teaches that there is only “*one body/church*” (Eph. 4:4; Col. 3:15; 1 Cor. 12:12-13). This means that there is only “*one*” group of people He recognizes as His own. And although some proclaim by word of mouth that they’re Christians, in reality they’re not (cf. Matt. 7:21). The difference between the two is one “*keeps*” ALL of God’s commandments, while the other **PARTIALLY** “*observes*” God’s commandments. We read in James 2:10, “*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*” In other words, it’s all or nothing when it comes to God. So although a person acts religiously (i.e., lives a decent moral life and goes to church), this still doesn’t make him or her acceptable unto God. Case in point is the example of Cornelius in Acts 10. The Bible described him as a “*devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave alms to the people, and prayed to God alway*” (v.2), yet Cornelius didn’t have a relationship with God because he still lacked *one* thing to do - repent and be baptized for the remission of his sins (Acts 10:34-48, cf. Mrk. 16:16; Acts 2:38).

So the difference between a true and false follower of God is, do they keep “*all*” of God’s commandments (cf. Col. 4:12). But keeping all of God’s commandments also requires a precise understanding of the Scriptures (Eph. 5:17; 1 Cor. 14:20), which when one applies themselves, will discover truth (Pr. 2:1-5) and make necessary changes to their belief structure and life; changes that will solidify a firm relationship with God, not based on assumptions or whims, but on facts and truth (Jn. 8:32; 1 Jn. 5:13).

So it doesn’t matter what a religious person says or does (per se). What matters is, do they understand the Scriptures and are they keeping “*all*” of God’s commandments. Just as in life, every recipe or machine needs all its parts and in the right order to function properly; likewise, within religion every Scripture must be analyzed, understood, and obeyed as God would have it, in order to have a relationship with him. Without a full and precise knowledge of God (Col. 1:9), then we can’t “*walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God*” (Col. 1:10). May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible Class and Men's Training Class will be at 4:00 pm on May 24. The ladies will cover lesson 4 in the book, Seasoning Your Words.

Our College (Isela) and High School (Matthew and Tiffany) Graduates will be honored after evening services in the annex. Everyone is invited to stay and congratulate our graduates.

Volunteers are needed for the month of June: host youth devo, host fellowship dinner, and prepare Lord's Supper. See Elwyn if you can serve in one of these areas.

The Sunny Glenn Children's Home will be here the week of June 9-11 to pick up Liquid Laundry Detergent. As before, you can either purchase this item and place it in the library, or give a donation to one of our elders, who will then purchase this item in bulk. Thank you.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is set for May 22. The Dorries' will host this event in the annex. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for May 29th. More details to come later.

AREA NEWS

None at this time.

TRUE WORSHIP (5)

Continuing with the discussion of the word "*fellowship*" as found in Acts 2:42, we then go to the second definition of this Greek word (*koinoneo*), which is gift and/or contribution. It's used in this regard in Philippians 4:15 where Paul said, "*Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, no church communicated (koinoneo) with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*"

In the midst of the acts of worship, giving and/or contribution was observed. But how does this action fall under the category of worship? As we learned weeks ago, worship means to reverence, adore, or pay homage to our superior. Thus, whatever our superior requires of us, we do. But how does giving of wealth honor God?

Let's look at this systematically. God is spirit/mind, meaning God is non-physical (Jn. 4:24). God created a physical world, which included wealth (Gen. 1-2; Ps. 104:24). The resources of life was created for the benefit of all mankind (Ps. 104; 13-15). But through the process of life - unfortunate circumstances, strength, weakness, drive, laziness, and greed, created our different financial classes of men (i.e., wealthy/poor; educated/non-educated; etc.). So what was the outcome and what did God require of His creation? That in legitimate cases, the stronger help those that are weak (cf. Rom. 15:2). Throughout the entire Bible, God has always required His creation (*especially His people*) to help each other live life (Pr.

6:19; Micah 6:8; Amos 5:9-13). Therefore, one of the ways this was accomplished was through benevolence. Hence, a collection by the church of Christ was mandated "*on the first day of the week*" (1 Cor. 16:2), for the purpose of helping others in deep poverty and need (2 Cor. 8:1-5,14-15; 9:6-14).

Also, since God commanded to be worshiped on the "*first day of the week*" (Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10), then its facility and attachments (attendants, property, etc.) must be maintained by wealth, just as the nation of Israel did with the Temple of God (Neh. 13:5,10-13). So God commanded His people to give *freewill offerings* to sustain His projects and work.

The Bible commands that the church is responsible in maintaining herself. So what this means is, the church (the people) are NOT authorized in the name of the church to seek wealth from the world through garage sales, bake sales, raffles, bizarres, etc., rather the people of God must be responsible to fund the work of God through their own efforts. Why? Because God didn't want the world to think that the church was just about money and then get the wrong impression, rather the church is about saving the souls of men! So the third act of worship seen in Acts 2:42 is giving of our means to help the work of God and those in need, collected on the first day of every week. 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

There Are Those Who Hate All That Is Good!

Isn't it difficult to understand how one could hate the pure and lowly Jesus of Nazareth! The immaculate purity of the life of Christ contrasted so violently with the hypocritical pretense of those religious leaders of His day that they were embittered against Him! He recognized this: "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated me and my Father" (Jn.15:24).

"But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause" (Jn.15:25). There was really no just basis for their hatred; for as His epitaph stated of Him: "Who went about doing good" ((Acts 10:38). But the good that He did was offensive to some; causing Jesus to ask those revilers: "Many good works have I shewed you of my Father: for which of these works do ye stone me?" (Jn. 10:32). This disgraceful condition was described by Him in these words: "And this is the condemnation, that light is cone into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light,neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprovod" (Jn. 3:19-20). The Prophet Isaiah spoke ill of such long before" "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light,and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isa. 5:20).There is the same resentment against light, truth, godliness, righteousness and purity from many in our day! There are those who are contemptuous of any who espouse good and eschew evil. These champion the same sins that crucified our Lord!

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



May 17

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *M. Gibson; M. Neaves; Z. Watkins;*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:45-54*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; G. Rodriguez*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. Gibson*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Hernandez*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 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
 Roberto Garcia, Blanca's father (passed away last Sunday). Will have memorial a service in Kansas City in June.
 Lorenza Bejarano
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)
 Anthony Harris Sr
 Ina Dial
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Eloise Creek (continues to improve)
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Carolyn Harris
 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 MAY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Dorries
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Dorries
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Hipp
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Harris
 Brother in charge of services:
B. Dorries

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 2

PM Sermon:
Maintaining Human Relationships

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 6: *B. Dorries*
 May 13: *W. Holmes*
 May 20: *G. Rodriguez*

FOR THE RECORD

May 10

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	46
Sunday AM Worship	72
Sunday PM Worship	31
Wednesday Bible Study	47
Budget/Offering:	\$2,450.00/ \$2,785.00

Weekly Bible Readers:
 9 out of 26 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 Fax: (210) 696-5181

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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