

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? (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

True Worship (6)

*Shepherd’s
Corner:*

Envy Helped Crucify Our Lord

First, we need to be convinced that a Supreme Being exists. We can simply do this by looking at and studying the great features of nature (i.e., order and rules = intelligence), which necessitates a Creator (Rom. 1:19-20). Second, we need to ask whether the Creator has revealed Himself more than just deduction from the laws of nature (cf. Ps. 19:1,7). This then takes us to a discussion of the many “*holy*” books in society that purport themselves to be from a Supreme Being. So how does one sift through all of these books and determine (with accuracy) its legitimacy?

This is where good investigative skills and common sense must come together with the facts and reality of life. In essence, good critical thinking skills must be employed to determine the truth of a claim. With so many “truth” claims made in our religious world, the level of knowing the truth becomes extremely laborious (work; effort), but not impossible to discover.

So our basis for discovery of truth must begin with reality and facts of life. This means that anything a “*holy*” book espouses must conform to what we know

is right through experience. Here are some examples. Does the “*holy*” book....

- differentiate between animals and human beings as being different (Gen. 1:26).
- support nature as being governed by indiscriminate laws (Matt. 5:46-47).
- support the notion that matter is not eternal (Job 1:21-22; Heb. 9:27).
- support the fact that everything has a beginning and an end (Eccl. 3: 1-9).
- give correct facts concerning the process of human development (i.e., that children possess no knowledge of good and evil at their birth) (Deut. 1:39; Lk. 2:40, 52).
- support that good and bad things happen to all men alike (Eccl. 8:14).
- support that evil and wrong exists because of the pain we experience at the hands of others (Ps. 10:1-8; Pr. 2:11-22).
- speak of ultimate justice meted to those who caused us so much pain and hurt (Eccl. 12:14; Rom. 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:10).

If the “*holy*” book doesn’t support what is consistent with reality then it quickly must be disregarded as a fraud. May God be praised!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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

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 this Friday, May 29. The Dorries' will host this event in the annex. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adults will be meeting for an outdoor activity next month. Place, event, date and time to be announced later.

AREA NEWS

None at this time.

TRUE WORSHIP (6)

The first Christians (Acts 2:38,41) "*continued steadfastly*" in the (1) doctrine of the Apostles (i.e., doctrine of Christ), (2) congregational (acapella) singing, and (3) giving of their financial means (Acts 2:42). The next item of worship they observed was the "*breaking of bread*." This phrase is often confused with the idea of sharing a common meal (e.g., Lk. 24:35; Acts 2:46), but the context reveals that in Acts 2:42 the idea of "*breaking bread*" referenced a spiritual meal constituting an act of worship. So what did this breaking of bread refer to?

We learn in Matthew 26:17-30 that Christ instituted a spiritual meal known as the "*Lord's Supper*" (1 Cor. 11:24-28). This supper was instituted during the time the Jews observed the Passover (Matt. 26:18). The Old Testament reveals that this Jewish Passover consisted of two items to be eaten - a lamb and unleavened bread (Ex. 12; 3-15). The lamb was a male, without blemish, whose blood was shed for the salvation of the Israelites, and secondly, unleavened bread, which God's people were to eat for seven days (Ex. 12:1-20).

We learn in the New Testament that these two acts had a spiritual significance, namely that Christ was the passover lamb, whose blood saves us from spiritual death, and that unleavened bread signified a life without sin, of which Jesus demonstrated (1 Cor. 5:7-8; Jn. 6:34, cf. Heb. 4:15).

So going back to Matthew 26:26-30, we're told that after Christ ate with His disciples the Passover meal, he

then proceeded to institute another meal using its emblems. The Bible says, "*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*"

As noted, the emblems were used to represent ideals. The first was the "*unleavened bread*" (Matt. 26:17), which referred to a sinless life. The bread which represented Christ's body is indicative of acts of life, because **with the body we engage in acts of goodness or evil** (2 Cor. 5:10). The second was the fruit of the vine which referred to Christ's shed blood (the lamb of God, Jn. 1:29), which gives us renewed life (Lev. 17:11), a new birth (Jn. 3:3-5).

So why and when were Christians to observe this meal? According to Acts 20:7, every first day of the week. Why? So Christians could be reminded on the day of resurrection (i.e., Sunday, the day which represents conquering death) of our mission in life - to live sinless and be committed to righteousness, despite our hardships of life (1 Pet. 2:18-24).

The Lord's Supper then is about focusing on life, not death. It's about concentrating on what is required of us, living faithful, rather than what Christ went through physically. In other words, Christ came to show us how to remain firm and faithful to righteous conduct despite suffering at the hands of wicked and sinful people. 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

Envy Helped Crucify Our Lord

One of the underlying causes for the crucifixion of our Lord lay in the envious nature of the Jewish leaders!! "Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him" (Mt. 26:3-4). But the Roman law would not allow the Jews to impose the death penalty; therefore, they had to lay "made-up charges" before Pilate. But the governor was not misled! "For he knew that through envy they had delivered him" (Mt. 27:18). It was envy that caused them to cry repeatedly: "Let him be crucified" (Mt. 27:22-23).

Subsequently, when Paul and Barnabas had success in reaching those in Antioch in Pisidia with the gospel, opposition arose: "But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming" (Acts 13:45). The preaching of Paul in Thessalonica was hampered by the same disturbance: "But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar" (Acts 17:5). Envy and prejudice can arise to obstruct almost any efforts for the Lord! No wonder saints have such warnings against envying: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth...For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (Jas. 3:14, 16). Brethren, let's be honest: there is still much envying in the church today! The sin of envy creeps in through religious papers, and through other means; and is often reflected in harsh, unkind words spoken before prayerful thought! We should abhor the sins that crucified Jesus, even when we see them displayed in own lives.

May it never be said that we are guilty of envy!

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 24

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *M. Gibson*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; J. Guillen; E. Lerma; E. Hipp*

Scripture: *Luke 23:33-38*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Mora*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; R. Baltierra*

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

After Greeter: *S & B Hernandez*
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 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
 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 JUNE

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *NA*
 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 3

PM Sermon:
Maintaining Human Relationships (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

May 17

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 39
 Sunday AM Worship 47
 Sunday PM Worship 45
 Wednesday Bible Study 40
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$2,198.00**

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

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 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