

# 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? (2)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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Common sense and reality are the items used to determine whether a religion and its holy book are legitimate. The problem is, we’ve allowed “false” religions and anti-religious thought to hijack our desire to search for the truth. It’s so much easier to say that every religion is a fraud and there is no truth, like the agnostic (one who believes we can’t know anything) would have us to believe. But this simply is not the case. We know that truth exists and is always objective. For example, two plus two equals four and 12 inches equals a foot are facts that are undisputed and objective, meaning, no matter where you go in the world these statements will always be true. But matters become complicated when we begin to discuss moral and ethics. But should it?

There are situations which “all people” experience that burgeon emotions of pain and happiness. For example, the death of a loved one brings pain, while marriage between two loving adults (i.e., male and female) brings happiness. So then, if people all over the world experience

similar emotions from similar situations, wouldn’t it make sense, regardless of culture, race, and language, that there is an objective and universal law of morality and ethics. Yes! Just as people abhor theft and murder in the US, likewise, people abhor it in the countries of India, China, and Russia. The fact of the matter is, there is a common bond between mankind, because there are common moral and ethical laws we agree with. The only problem is, we inevitably have some who buck the system, because of selfishness, and begin to break these universal laws of morality and ethics. This is why every culture has a police or military force to subdue these types of people to bring order to chaos.

But there is a problem that is presented here. What if a “holy book” authorizes acts that contradict universal laws of morality and ethics? When then should we think of this and how should we respond? We’ll investigate these questions next week. May God be praised!

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be Sunday, June 14, after the morning service. The menu is potluck.

The family home devotional will be hosted by the Maldonados on June 12th at 7:00 pm. The menu is potluck.

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 by June 3, who will then purchase this item in bulk.

Thank you.

### 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* for their June activity on the 26th. The Mora's will give us further time and instructions.

### AREA NEWS

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

## TRUE WORSHIP (7)

The last (5th) act of worship mentioned in Acts 2:42 is *prayer*. But what is prayer and how is it to be observed in worship?

The simple answer is prayer is communicating with God, but the Bible gives us further details as to its constituent parts. There are different contexts in which prayer is offered. There is the context of worship unto God (Ps. 147), personal prayers (Matt. 26: 36-46), and congregational prayers (Acts 4:23-31). These all need to be considered carefully, because frankly, many Christians confuse these contexts and blend these prayers together, when in reality, all things should be done "*in decency and in order*" (1 Cor. 14:40). Let me explain.

In the context of *worship* directed unto the Father (Jn. 4:24), prayers should consist of words of praise, adoration, and honor unto the Holy name of God (e.g., Dan. 2:20-21, Ps. 48, 66, 95; Jn. 17:1-3). The idea of worship is to solely reverence the name of God by proclaiming with the "*fruit of our lips...the sacrifice of praise, giving thanks unto his name*" (Heb. 13:15). This means our prayers should consist of language which helps to remind us about the power, majesty, and greatness of God. Why? So we might be constantly reminded that we are merely "*grasshoppers*" in His sight (cf. Isa. 40:12-3, cf. Rom. 1:20-23).

*Personal prayers* are utterances of desires and painful thoughts steep in deep emotion based experiences and trials of life. This is what Jesus was referencing in Matthew 6:9-15; Luke

11:1-4; and Luke 18:1-14. According to Jesus, this type of prayer should be done in secret (Matt. 6:5-8; 26:39).

*Congregational prayers* are utterances of encouragement for strength and boldness (Acts 4: 23-31). The congregation is obligated to "*provoke one another unto love and good works*" (Heb. 10:24), and one way to do this is by praying together. So as we come together, "*men*" (males) are to lead our prayers (1 Tim. 2:8), and these prayers should stimulate thoughts of continued faithfulness to the Lord. By reminding the congregation of our continued dedication unto the Lord, this should galvanize us to encourage each other though our examples and communication we use one toward another outside of prayer.

Furthermore, prayer is not a time to be wordy or ostentatious (Matt. 5:7), rather it is a time we humbly come before the Lord of Lords to help remind us of our status and mission of life.

So noticing the different contexts in which prayer was rendered, it behooves us as God's people to practice prayers in their proper order. By doing this, we begin to truly focus on what is to be meditated upon for that moment. We should give specific time for praise and honor to God's name, for expressing our thoughts and emotions unto God, and for encouragement unto our brothers and sisters in Christ. May seek to practice prayer as God intended. 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 Concern For The World

A true disciple of Christ will not be too overly concerned with what this world thinks and does! The standard 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 is also 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 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?

One of the most disastrous faults is found in allowing others to "entangle" us in the affairs of this world! How sad that saints of God seek to be like the world, and copy its pattern of immoral behavior! The apostle of love wrote "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (1 Jn. 2:15-17). Paul had to tell the saints. "the fashion of this world passeth away" (1 Cor. 7:31). New enticements, trends and fads make news every day, but they are soon forgotten. The vain desire to be like the world produces only great harm! It separates people from the love of God, and brings down His displeasure upon them!

Are we conformed to this world? Study God's Word, Make the right choices, and continue along life's pathway with Him.

*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 31

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; M. de la Garza; J. Mora; M. Gibson*

Scripture: *Rom. 5:6-11*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *T. Mayces*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; E. Lerma*  
 Sermon: *Cong. Singing*  
 Benediction: *G. Rodriguez*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*  
 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  
 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 4*

PM Sermon:  
*Congregational Home Devotional*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

## FOR THE RECORD

### May 24

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study	36
Sunday AM Worship	68
Sunday PM Worship	40
Wednesday Bible Study	31
Budget/Offering:	<b>\$2,450.00/ \$2,170.00</b>

Weekly Bible Readers:  
 7 out of 19 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 San Antonio, TX 78230  
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Fax: (210) 696-5181

Church email Address:

[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