

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)

## Critical Thinking

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

**Solomon's Warnings (1)**

*Shepherd's Corner:*

**Do Material Riches Cause Us To Forget God?**

Last week, we looked at the subject of tradition and concluded that some traditions are detrimental to society because it promotes actions without engaging in any thought process, leading to mindless habits. No where is this more serious than in worship to God and in our conduct/character. Both of these require (critical) thinking skills.

Jesus wrestled with this deficiency throughout his ministry with Jewish leaders (Matt. 13: 10-15), who went through the motions of man-made mindless traditions, bringing no value to their spiritual lives (Matt. 15:1-9). As a result, no spiritual growth was experienced. They simply remained stagnate in their knowledge of God, which led to this rebuke of Christ in John 8:43: “*Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.*” In other words, they chose not to think, know, and understand the will of God, which led to this condemnation: “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it*” (Jn. 8:44). Because the Jews had not used their minds to identify truth, their behavior mimicked the conduct and character of Satan, an angelic being who

also failed to use his thought process to identify truth. Therefore, a lack of mental effort led to a thought process and behavioral traits that were an affront to God.

The *process of critical thinking* takes an objective and honest mindset to decipher the true meaning of things. By doing this, our actions become meaningful, because we're not merely going through the motions, rather we truly know and understand why we do things. This is why man-made traditions don't foster growth, because these simply are done out of repetition.

The Jews were a people during the days of Christ that merely went through the motions of actions, but had no clue or meaning as to why they did certain things. Unfortunately, this continues today in our religious world. People will do something because it has always been done, rather than doing something because it has meaning and value. This is why worship unto God and our conduct and character suffer under traditions, because we do things without thinking. Why do we meet on Sunday? Why do we partake of the Lord's Supper? Why do we give? Why must we live righteously? The list goes on and on. We must truly know why we do what we do, and this comes from knowing and understanding God's will correctly.

## Solomon's Warnings (2)

### Church News and Announcements

#### CONGREGATION

The Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting Fabric Softener sheets and Pie Filling. The truck will be here between December 15-17. As before, you can donate funds by giving it to one of our elders, memo your check for Sunny Glenn, or purchase these items on your own and place it in the library. The donated funds will be used to purchase the items in bulk from Sam's Club.

Thank you.

#### YOUTH

There will be no youth devotional for the month of November.

#### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is set for November 20. Place and time to be announced later.

#### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

In Proverbs 6:20-35, Solomon continued his talk about the lure of the "*strange (adulterous) woman.*" He begins his thought process as he did in chapter 5:1ff, by encouraging his son to "*keep his father's commandments and forsake not the law of your mother: Bind they continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck*" (vss. 20-21). In other words, don't forget the experiences and wisdom of your parents, remember their instruction throughout your life (v.22), for "*the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life*" (v. 23).

So as he did in chapter 5, Solomon continued his warning concerning the "*evil (strange) woman*" (v. 24). As he did in chapter 5, Solomon gave her descriptors: (1) Watch for her deceptive speech (v. 24b) and (2) Don't lust after her beauty (v. 25). Why? Because the adulterous woman seeks whom she can satisfy her desires with, as she hunts for precious life (v.26). Solomon then gave some common sense examples: "*Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes be not burned?*" (v.27) and "*Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?*" (v.28). In other words, once someone decides to take part in sexual immorality, their action sullies their entire life. Hence, "*So he that goes in to his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent*" (v. 29).

But inevitably, some would suggest that engaging in sex is merely satisfying a need of the body; so nothing is wrong with

this. But God through Solomon preempted this argument by saying, "*Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry,*" yet, he is still responsible for his thievery (vss. 30-31). Likewise, when it comes to sexual immorality with another man's wife, although this is a natural need, the choice to engage in adultery (unnatural choice) means that this person "*lacks understanding and he destroys his own soul.*" He destroys his life by fueling the rage and jealousy of the violated husband, who seeks the life of the adulterers (vss. 33-35). Nothing will placate his emotion of vengeance!

Those who choose to engage in sexual conduct with married people do this to their own demise. Not only will they have to deal with God's justice and judgment, but unfortunately they will deal with the justice and judgment of a broken-hearted and distraught husband/wife. Therefore, it simply is not wise to have relations with a woman that is already spoken for. Regardless if the woman is discontent with her marriage, this does not give her the right, nor authority to destroy her marriage by seeking the sexual union of another. Males need to be especially careful and control themselves. May married people stay married, and if problems exist, may married people continue to work on their relationships, and not seek to destroy it through infidelity. 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

### Do Material Riches Cause Us To Forget God?

The riches of this world are close at hand. They most likely beckon us to immediate pleasures; but too often cause us to forget God and eternal riches He has laid by in store for the faithful. Because of deceitfulness of riches, Jesus warns us: "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God" (Mk.10:23). So many personal tragedies are experienced because we become ambitious for worldly wealth and fortunes. But all the world's gold is not to be weighed against the deep spiritual blessing which we have in Christ Jesus, "and in the world to come, eternal life" (Mk. 10:30). But we must now act as wise stewards over that which God has committed to our hands to prove acceptance of greater honor hereafter: "If therefore ye have not been faithful in unrighteous mammon, who shall commit to your trust the true riches?" (Lk. 16:11). Rather, we must so behave before God at all times that he will say at last, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter into the joy of thy lord" (Mt. 25:21 or 23). If this awaits us, we will not die poor, but will be richly blessed!

"Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mat. 11: 28-30).

**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



# November 15

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; R. Baltierra; R. Baltierra Jr.; G. Rodriguez*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:6-9*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

## PM WORSHIP

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

After Greeter: *W & K Holmes*  
 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  
 Joe Guillen  
 Sarah Cannon  
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)  
 Ina Dial  
 David Sudhoff  
 Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)  
 Caral O'Banon

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes      Graciola Anderson  
 Lydia Cowan      George Jackson  
 Briana Nieves      Sonny Cary  
 Elwyn Hipp      Gwen Parker  
 Edna Wilks (Hospice home care)

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Mary Louese Hughes  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Joe and Nadia Guillen

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES NOVEMBER

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

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 28*

### PM Sermon:

*Protecting the Reputation of God (1)*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

November 4: *M. de la Garza*  
 November 11: *E. Hipp*  
 November 18: *J. Guillen*

## FOR THE RECORD

### November 8

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      45  
 Sunday AM Worship      68  
 Sunday PM Worship      35  
 Wednesday Bible Study      49  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$2,849.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/29 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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