

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)

Figurative Language and Symbolism (11)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

Unclean Mind

*Shepherd's
Corner:*
God's Word is
Absolutely
Necessary (II)

Due to our lack of understanding of figures of speech involving change, much confusion has seeped into various doctrines; thus, creating doctrines foreign to logic and common sense. Here are several examples:

Heart - this Greek word, *kardia*, is defined as the thoughts and feelings emanating from the mind; the center of physical and spiritual life. It's an example of *metonymy*. Therefore, in Matthew 12:35, when Jesus says, "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," He's saying, that out of the thoughts of the mind our mouths communicate. But in Matthew 22:37 when Jesus said, "Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy mind," both words, *heart* and *mind*, are used in the same verse. Therefore, the meaning would be, the heart is referencing the feelings/emotions of man, while the mind (*dianoia*) is referencing deep thought; exercising the mind. Therefore, the meaning is, serve God with the right thoughts and emotions.

Body - in Matthew 26:26, Jesus says, as He instituted what is called "The Lord's Supper," "Take, eat; this is my body." This is an example of a *metaphor*. So what did Jesus mean? We see a smilier case in John 6: 51-58 when Jesus likened himself to bread from heaven and commanded the people to eat his flesh

and drink his blood (v. 53). Was Jesus actually saying that the bread was literally His body/flesh?

We can logically conclude, no! While the words "*body*" and "*flesh*" have reference to the physical flesh, the thrust of both passages center on what they were likened to - one unleavened bread and the other Christ's teachings. So the meaning is clear when one understands that Christ used figurative language. In the Lord's Supper, the unleavened bread represents one lived without sin (1 Cor. 5:6-8). But why was it compared to His body? Because the body is also a figure of speech, which represents the actions of life. This can be found in 2 Corinthians 5:10, where Paul says that we'll be judged by the "things done in our body." Hence, during the Lord's Supper, we're supposed to remember the sinless actions of Christ, which remind us that sin can be defeated; that the mind is more powerful than the body. This remembrance every Sunday should help to encourage us in our mission in life - to live as Christ lived, one without sin (1 Jn. 2:6; 1 Pet. 2:21-22). Unfortunately, many have likened the unleavened bread to his body that hung on the cross, thus honoring death instead of honoring life. May we seek to understand the Scriptures better by knowing the uses of figures. MGBP!

Unclean Mind

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, November 8, after the morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

Elders need volunteers for the month of December: to prepare communion, and a man to be in charge of services. See Brother Hipp if you can assist.

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

The Price rd. congregation in Brownsville, TX invites the ladies to their Ladies' Day on November 7 beginning at 8:30 am. The topic will be "The Role of Women in Evangelism."

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

The discussions we've had concerning sins of a sexual nature, immodesty and fornication, all stem from the word "uncleanness" (Gal. 5:19). The Greek word is *akathartos*, which comes from the root word *katharos*, which is defined as: to be clear or pure, free from every admixture of what is false and forbidden. The negative *a* means someone who isn't clear, pure, or free from false or forbidden admixtures of life.

Consider Titus 1:15 to help explain the thought of uncleanness. Paul says, "*Unto the pure (katharos) all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.*" The word "defiled" means to pollute or contaminate oneself with another; in other words, to dye with another color, to stain. When we allow ourselves to be involved with worldliness (1 Jn. 2:15-17), then our minds become contaminated with immoral thoughts leading to immoral actions. Hence, the idea of immoral sexuality comes from those in the world who have chosen to live a promiscuous sexual life. Therefore, their actions begin to sully our thoughts, and we begin to mimic their behavior of misconduct. This is why what we feed our minds is very important. If we feed it filth, then filth is what proceeds.

This, then, leads to the next action found in Galatians 5:19, "*lasciviousness.*" This word means uncontrolled passions; in other words, doing things without

thinking. People, by and large, are led by their feelings and emotions, without regard to anyone else's. What has happened is, the mind has been "*taken captive by Satan as his will*" (2 Tim. 2:26), and in captivity, we simply go through the motions of what feels good, rather than engaging in critical thinking.

Remember what we are fighting against - pleasures of the body. Pleasures that are not innately evil, rather have been distorted by wicked imaginations of men to gratify self wants and desires (i.e., selfishness). So the point is, don't allow our minds to be swayed by selfish desires that inundate our world. Our goal is to help others by making **selfless decisions** that will affect them in a positive way. But when we allow the negativity and foolishness of others to dominate our lives, then we fall prey to the unending cycle of selfishness, merely looking out for number 1.

An unclean mind is always looking out for what they can profit at the expense of others, but a clean mind is always looking for ways to help others by engaging in actions that will bring peace and harmony to this world. This is our lot in life as Christians, to spread unity and harmony by making decisions that affect others positively. But an unclean mind only seeks its own and eventually destroys others. 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

God's Word Is Absolutely Necessary (II)

Jesus, near the close of His earthly ministry, prayed for the apostles, "Sanctify them in the truth, thy word is truth" (Jno. 17:17). "Sanctify means "set apart" and was often used under the old covenant. The temple was sanctified, so were the sacrifices offered there. But the people, the "book of the law" and dozens of other things were "sanctified" (or "set apart") for a holy purpose unto God. In a similar way, Christians are "sanctified, called to be saints" (1 Cor. 1:2), and are thus "an elect race, a royal parenthood, a holy nation" (1 Pet. 2:9). God sanctifies us by His word (Jno. 17:17), as Jesus said to the apostles, "Ye are clean because of the word which I have spoken unto you" (Jno. 15:3).

Yes, "the word of the Lord abideth forever, and this is the word of the gospel" (1 Pet. 1:25). The word is inspired, it is inexhaustible, it is imperishable, it is indispensable. But it is also available. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:15-16). That word is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16). Therefore we plead with you to hear it, trust it, do it. We encourage you to study your Bible much, much more. Be cautious of which version of the Bible you use. Not all Bibles are completely reliable.

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 1

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Lerma; A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.; G. Rodriguez*

Scripture: *Ps. 22:14-18*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *T. Akpakpan*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; T. Mayces*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 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); Mayces'; Gribbles; 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 26

PM Sermon:

Be Battle Tested (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

November 4: *M. de la Garza*

November 11: *E. Hipp*

November 18: *J. Guillen*

FOR THE RECORD

October 25

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 38
 Sunday AM Worship 60
 Sunday PM Worship 36
 Wednesday Bible Study 48
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,532.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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