

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)

The Holy Spirit (9)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The Exclusive Church is Always Evangelistic!

Now that we've driven home the point of communication and its power of influence upon the mind, and have connected this process with the role of the Holy Spirit, now let's spend some time in the aspect of figurative language. All too often, when people read their Bibles, they confuse literal and figurative uses of language. Instead of logically thinking things through, people simply regurgitate what other preachers and members have commented on HS passages. Instead of logically concluding how the Holy Spirit worked in the past and His role today, many have opted for the literal explanation, rather than submitting to the common sense and figurative explanation. And I sort of get it as to why many people usually gravitate toward the former.

It's much more easier to say that the Holy Spirit is doing this or that in the lives of men, because of feelings, without really putting much thought to what He actually does. Many people do this with the subject of prayer and providence as well. But God didn't make reading and understanding the Bible simple. God gave us the Word to challenge our thought process by figuring out things with logical reasoning and common sense. He wanted mankind to logically connect the dots in how things work in life. We do

this with other areas of life apart from the spiritual (i.e., advances in technology), but when it comes to the HS, the majority want to treat this subject as *mystical*, *secretive*, and *personal*. Instead of identifying the natural processes of things and the Holy Spirit's role within those natural processes, many automatically gravitate toward *feeling* and *emotion based responses*. Sort of what many denominations do with many Biblical subjects.

But as we've noted from time to time, God is interested in us knowing what His word says and applying it logically. This is why we've spent much time in discussing how men are influenced - through the power of communication. Therefore, through the medium of the Holy Spirit's communication (cf. Jn. 14:26; 16:13), which would eventually lead to the written word (1 Cor. 13:9-10; Jas. 1:25), this is the influence that inspires people today. But instead of accepting this rational answer, many have sought for the *feel good answer*, which suggests that the Holy Spirit lives within me to confirm my life, and helps me to understand the Scriptures, leading and guiding me in a personal way. But much to their chagrin, all they've acknowledged the HS does, we do ourselves. May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (9)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. Everyone, including our visitors, are invited to stay, eat, and fellowship with us.

We are still collecting cream of chicken soups for the Children's Home of Lubbock. Please continue to bring these cans and place them in the box in the foyer. They will be picking up the box on April 18th.

The family home devotional hosted by the Baltierras will be on April 23 at 6:00 pm in the annex building.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's training class is scheduled for April 24 at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 12 and the men will continue their study in the book of Zephaniah.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be tied in with our young adult devotional on April 16th at 11 am at the Del View Park. All families are invited to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

Young Adult and youth group picnic scheduled for April 16th at 11 am at the Del View Park. All families are invited to attend.

AREA NEWS

See bulletin board in the foyer for many area wide meetings and youth events.

What was Paul's purpose in reciting the establishment of the Lord's Supper in chapter 11? As we noted last week, the beginning of this chapter spoke concerning the role of God, Jesus, man, and woman within this life (vss. 11:1-16). This biological and natural process (from greater power to lesser) was meant to teach Christians in Corinth of their role in providing a wonderful **example** to each other. But this was certainly not the case in Corinth. Rather, Paul said, "Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse" (v. 17). The word that sets the tone for this section is "better." The word comes from the Greek *kreitton* and is defined (in this context) as someone more favorable (nobler) with regard to conduct and character (cf. Heb. 12:24). So Paul's thoughts were, he was writing because when they came together as Christians, some were not coming together in the proper conduct and character. This resulted in what he said next: "For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it" (v.18). Divisions and schisms had ensued due to the brethren's lack of spiritual decorum. But Paul noted something interesting: "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you" (v. 19). In other words, God allowed these dissensions to arise within the church from men and women who weren't providing a godly and righteous example, because this would distinguish the wheat (true Christians) from the tares (feign Christians) (cf. Matt. 13:24-30).

Paul then discussed an example of improper conduct and character at its finest, which was destroying the efforts of the church, which is to be a light unto the world (Matt. 5:16). He referred to the early church's love

feasts (cf. Jude 12), or fellowship meals together. He said, "When you come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper. For in eating every one takes before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not?" (vss. 20-22). First, don't lose sight of what Paul is teaching here. Although he mentions the Lord's Supper, he is using the example of the Lord's Supper to teach them something greater. Second, what was the problem? The problem was the display of improper conduct and character. What was happening was, as the church came together to enjoy a love feast (fellowship meal) together, since there was a great disparity among the rich and poor of the church, instead of the rich, giving and sharing of their means with those less fortunate (i.e., a staple action of the early Christian church, Acts 2:43-46; 4:32-37; 6:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:1-15), the rich (wealthy) selfishly ate at home prior to their arrival and didn't contribute to the physical needs of their brethren. What this had done as Paul said, the improper conduct and character of the wealthy had *shamed* and *despised* the church of God. God's church was supposed to be the **MODEL** of righteous conduct and character, but instead, they had become **MODELS** of *greed* and *selfishness*; traits that would come to malign the church of Christ and be looked upon as an uncaring and unfruitful organization. But if the church is to **MODEL** the life of Christ (1 Jn. 2:6); hence, the name Christian, then the subject of the Lord's Supper, if properly understood, becomes significant in this discussion. 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

This Exclusive Church Is Always Evangelistic!

As the Lord "added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47), from the first 3,000 soon the number was 5,000 men, not counting women and young (4:4); multitudes were added (5:14); the number was multiplied (6:1); then multiplied greatly (6:7). But persecution arose after the stoning of Stephen. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them...But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:4-5,12). An angel called Philip from this "big meeting" to preach to the Ethiopian eunuch going to Egypt, who having heard the gospel asked, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?...And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him (Acts 8:36-38). The next chapter introduces us to Paul and his great evangelism, who states, "that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:19). Friends, that takes in all of Asia Minor to Jerusalem, and four provinces of Europe! But he wasn't through! "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:15-16). Notice this urgency to Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16). He wanted Timothy to pass the gospel on: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). That is the way New Testament evangelism works: it is done exclusively by that church which Jesus built for that purpose! That is what makes that church exclusive!

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



April 10

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *S. Hernandez*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; M. de la Garza; E. Lerma; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:10-12*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *N. Essenowo*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; J. Mokry*

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

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Ina Dial
 David and Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon
 Glenn Gribble
 Torres' family
 Rose's aunt (Mary Hardiman)
 Cowan family

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 George Jackson Briana Nieves
 Sonny Cary Elwyn Hipp
 Gwen Parker Lori Main's father
 Tomas Guillen

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball (rehab, following surgery)
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

DEPLOYED: Jimmie Cardenas

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES APRIL

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Dorries
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Neaves
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Mora
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
NA
 Brother in charge of services:
T. Mayces

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 47

PM Sermon:

"The Crown of Righteousness" (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

April 6: *W. Holmes*

April 13: *G. Rodriguez*

April 20: *M. de la Garza*

FOR THE RECORD

April 3

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 55
 Sunday AM Worship 74
 Sunday PM Worship 46
 Wednesday Bible Study 40
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,966.30**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/28 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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