

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)

## Matthew 23 (9)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

### Inside This Issue:

#### The Goal of Every Christian

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**God Gave You Life, Why Not Enjoy it!**

Self-righteousness and ignorant of God's will fueled the Pharisees and scribes murderous acts against God's true prophets and teachers. Jesus said in verse 34: *“Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.”* Therefore, Jesus condemned them saying, *“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”* (v. 33).

Instead of upholding God's practical, and logical truth, condemning false ideologies and man made practices, the scribes and Pharisees, blinded by their own traditions and rites, became enemies of God. And so it is today. We have many “religious folks” who believe that their traditions and rites, built upon false ideologies and practices of men, are in line with God's will, but in reality are destroying the work of God. Therefore, instead of genuinely helping God's cause, they became a determinant to God.

Blinded by false ideologies, traditions, and practices of men, many fight (knowingly or unknowingly) against the truth of God, and these individuals take their fight to God's true messengers and people. These follow in the example of

Saul, who incidentally was a Pharisee. In Acts 8:1-4, we read of Saul “causing havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women into prison.” Paul would later say that he did this *“ignorantly in unbelief”* (1 Tim 1:13). Due to his former teaching as a Jew (Phil. 3:5-6), built on traditions and rites (Matt. 15:1-8; Gal. 1:14), he believed his actions were pleasing unto God. But on the road to Damascus as Paul was *“yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the true disciples of the Lord”* (Acts 9:1), the Lord met him on the way and rebuke him for his misconstrued and false efforts (Acts 9:4-5). Saul was then directed to the truth and was converted by obeying the correct understanding of God's will (Acts 22:16; Gal. 1:6-12).

What this teaches us is, we have to make sure our efforts will account for something on the Day of Judgment. Make sure our thoughts and actions of religion is based on God's blessed will and correct understanding of it, not based on man made traditions and rites. What a sad day to discover that our erroneous thoughts and actions made us enemies of the cross (Phil. 3:18, cf. Matt. 7:21-23). As Paul said, *“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth”* (2 Cor. 13:8). May God be praised!

# The Goal of Every Christian

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The men's dinner will be on January 26, while the ladies get-together will be on January 28. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training Class will be on January 24 at 4:00 pm.

Mark your calendars for our 28th Annual Lectures, Feb. 19-21: *The Superiority of the Christian System*. Brochures are in the foyer. Please begin to spread the word and invite family, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances.

### YOUTH

The elders are looking for a host family for January's devotional. See brother Hipp if you can help.

### YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for January 22. More details to follow.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

What goals should a Christian set for himself? To read and study their Bibles more? To be at church services more? While there are many admirable goals a Christian can set for himself, no other goal is more important than the goal of genuineness. Genuineness means being real and true to God; not fake or pretentious. Unfortunately, the Christian religion is full of hypocrites. Paul would say of followers in his day: *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away"* (2 Tim. 3:5), and *"They profess that they know God; but by their works they deny him, being abominable, disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"* (Tit. 1:16).

The reason why genuineness is so important to God is because fake living mars the truth of godly living and existence. In other words, people will judge us based on actions rather than what is actually being said. So the only goal a Christian should possess this year and every year is to remain true and consistent to God's will by living it out perfectly.

This is why the idea of godly perfection is mentioned in throughout the Scriptures (Gen. 6:9; Job. 1:1; Eccl. 7:29; Matt. 5:48; Lk. 1:6; Heb. 4:15; Col. 4:12). This means we must be constant in our watch (1 Pet. 5:8), making sure evil influence doesn't thwart our efforts (1 Cor. 15:33), and discipline our lives to do what the Lord has commanded (Lk. 2:40,52). So the goal of a true Christian according to James is, *"...to keep himself unspotted from*

*the world"* (1:27). He or she needs to make sure their lives are free from external and internal blemish (Jas. 1:2, 12). Paul would say it this way: *"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ"* (Phil. 1:9-10).

The obtaining of moral perfection comes when one abounds in knowledge and discernment. With these two traits, we then can test (*approve*) things to determine whether they are excellent. This means, to determine whether I can or can't do something as a Christian. Once I determine the two, then I can reject the way that would tarnish the cause of Christ, and follow the path that will represent Christ well. By doing this daily, we then set a pattern of thoughts and actions that will be genuine (*sincere*) and without offense until the day Christ comes and judges our efforts (2 Cor. 5:10).

The goal is simple. To not only read, study, and meditate upon the word, but to actually practice it, by using our sense of reason and discipline to get the job done. When we became examples God desires, then we can start stemming a positive change for the world. What this world desperately needs is more doers and less talkers. It needs perfect examples. It needs light to shine in darkness (2 Cor. 3:4-6). 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 Gave You Life, Why Not Enjoy It?

When Jesus gave a recipe for happiness, we called the ingredients "beatitudes" (Matt. 5). The "poor in spirit" and "they that mourn" are not happy because they are miserable! Happiness is theirs because of what they are and how they think, regardless of external conditions. Paul wrote, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know also how to abound" (Phil. 4:11-12). He was content; no anxieties. But that doesn't mean things always went as he would have liked them. He was given a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor. 2:7), "a messenger from Satan" to afflict him. He asked the Lord three times to remove it, but the Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for thee; in weakness is my power made perfect." Paul's real attitude then shows: "Wherefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in injuries, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake: for when I am weak then am I strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). He asked that the "thorn" be removed, but when it wasn't, he refused to let it fill him with the anxieties that would rob him of the happiness and joy that is in Christ!

We must learn to be happy where we are, not wait for conditions to change so that we can be happy. Conditions were terrible, the situation very bad, when the apostle Paul told his shipmates that God had promised them safety. Then he added, "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall; be even as it hath been spoken unto me" (Acts 27:25). That is the faith that overcomes anxiety - faith that God is in control, that He cares for us, and that He will take care of us in any situation.

The admonition comes to all, "In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7). We **CAN** bet rid of anxieties and have the peace of God in our lives. God offers His peace, and shows us how to rid ourselves of anxieties. Now, it is up to us to do our part.

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



# January 17

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*  
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; M. de la Garza; E. Lerma; A. Maldonado*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:44-49*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *T. Mayces*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; R. Baltierra. Jr*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Mora*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*  
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

## 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  
 Joe Rendon (brother of Rosemary Rendon) - fighting high blood pressure and needs kidney transplant

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes      Graciola Anderson  
 Lydia Cowan      George Jackson  
 Briana Nieves      Sonny Cary  
 Elwyn Hipp      Gwen Parker

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JANUARY

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

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 37*  
**PM Sermon:**  
*True Discipleship (1)*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 6: *R. Trevino*  
 January 13: *W. Holmes*  
 January 20: *G. Rodriguez*

## FOR THE RECORD

### January 3

**Attendance:**  
 Sunday Bible Study      41  
 Sunday AM Worship      68  
 Sunday PM Worship      40  
 Wednesday Bible Study      41  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,957.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 6/23 (Adult Bible class)

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.  
 San Antonio, TX 78230  
 (210) 696-5532

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