

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)

Warning Labels

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

You Have To Want It!

Shepherd's Corner:
Faith Must Be Seen

Have you ever noticed that just about everything contains warning labels. If you think about it, warning labels are nothing but common sense rules. The purpose is as the wordage indicates, to warn us of something in order to protect our physical wellbeing. It's interesting that many people clamor for warning labels on items for the protection of their health and their children's health, but when it comes to religion, many mock and scoff at the strong messages of warning from God. There seems to be a bit of hypocrisy here.

The Bible is filled with warnings. It can be aptly called a book of warnings. But the warning it gives can be summed up this way: poor decisions yield grave consequences, and if left uncorrected, the ultimate consequence is hell fire. What this means is, we are ultimately responsible for our actions in life. The Bible gives warnings to simply remind us what is at stake when choosing wrong thoughts and actions. For the most part, warnings are simply common sense rules. For example, peanut companies have a warning label on their bottles and cans which reminds adults of not giving a child under four peanuts. Why? Because of the common sense choking hazard it presents. So in many instances the warnings of the Bible are common sense directives, like do not commit

murder or adultery, respect and honor our parents, and watch what we say to others. All of these rules contain immediate and lasting consequences bringing severe punishment, both physically and spiritually. Once we decide to reject common sense warnings, then we are rejecting to listen to advice that would help us avoid problems and consequences.

But the greatest of all consequences is the judgment of God to come (2 Cor. 5:10). When we reject God's common sense warnings, we've rejected bliss and happiness for us. Those who choose to reject the warning directives of the Bible bring upon themselves needless pain and agony. Just as people disregard warning labels on items and risk their health, and at times die because of faulty decisions; likewise, disregarding the warnings of God leads us to the great punishment of hell fire (Matt. 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 23:33).

So just as warning labels help us to avoid complications in the future, the Bible contains warning labels to help us avoid the consequence of eternal separation and damnation from God. May we heed to the warnings of the Bible to avoid immediate and eternal consequences. Choose wisely! May God be praised!

You Have To Want It!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The elders would like to thank everyone that come out yesterday to help in our building work day. Your efforts were appreciated.

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 youth devotional will be hosted by the Dorries on February 12th in the annex building at 7:00 pm.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for February 26th.

More details to follow.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

Speaking of the subject of competition last week, in order to become a good and fierce competitor for God, there is only one secret: We have to want it! What this means is, if we want to be the best, then we must really dedicate ourselves to becoming the best. As we showed last week in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Paul said, *“Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it...”* Did you get Paul’s secret to success? If you want to win then you must “run”, or in other words, you must want it like nothing ever before.

To become morally and ethically good or excellent at something begins with an inner drive to achieve it. If the inner drive or discipline isn’t there, then we’ll always fall flat and never get there. The excellence God requires us to be good and do good to others (1 Pet. 2:9; 3:10-11); becoming righteous in conduct and character (1 Jn. 2:29). Therefore, if God expects moral excellence from us, but we don’t believe we can do it, or there isn’t any drive to achieve it, then we’ll always fail and submit to moral dereliction. So the point is, we must want to be righteous and once we convince ourselves that this is what we want, there is nothing that can stop us from achieving what we desire.

This is applied to every goal we set for ourselves, and the reason why many don’t achieve their full potential, because there is no inner drive to conquer the goal. If

there is an example of one who had an inner drive to achieve the expectations of God it was Jesus Christ. We’re told in Luke 2:40, *“And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom...”* and Luke 2:52, *“And Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man.”* The words “grew,” “became,” and “increased” all refer to the inner passion and determination Jesus possessed to achieve the righteous expectations of God. Jesus had an inner fire that out did any man in history. But his passion was for being right and doing right throughout his entire cognitive life.

What this demonstrates is, anyone can possess a hunger and drive to become the best in whatever they set their mind to. We see this in sports. But it’s interesting that when it comes to righteousness, then the thought is upended by words such as, “We can’t live morally perfect!” or, “Sin is too powerful to overcome!” The problem isn’t sin, the problem is we don’t have a passion to put away sin forever from our lives. Remember what Paul said concerning how we should view sin, *“For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, fear, longing, zeal, and punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter”* (2 Cor. 7:11). When someone is tired of allowing sin to dominate their lives, then it takes something within, a fire to conquer it. 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

Faith Must Be Seen

"But someone may well say, 'You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without works, and I will show you my faith by my works'" (James 2:18). James describes a faith that will be obvious. Faith is not merely an internal conviction about God and Jesus. Faith is a trust in God that compels a response to God. This sort of faith will be visible to all who see the believer.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:14-16). Jesus described the sort of faith we are to have. It will be obvious as a city set on a hill. It will be like the light on the lamp stand. It will not be hidden in some private conversation with God, but will be seen by men. Finally, it will be a faith that calls attention to the good works of the believer, so that God receives the glory.

Throughout the Scriptures this sort of faith is commended by God. When Abraham offered Isaac, Abraham was commended for his faith (Gen 22:1-17). In fact, it was Abraham that James mentions. "Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?" (James 2:21). Jesus commended the friends of the paralyzed man because they had faith to find a way to get the man into the Lord's presence (Mark 2:1-5). The Bible says clearly that "Jesus seeing their faith" (Mark 2:5). Saving faith is always going to be a visible light in a dark world.

How does our faith measure up today? Is it a visible faith? Is God commending us for our faith? We encourage you to do a self examination. If your faith is not visible, necessary changes are in order. Don't delay. Today is the day of salvation.

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 31

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; J. Mokry; M. de la Garza; J. Mora*

Scripture: *Matt. 26:26-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Hipp; G. Rodriguez*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Hernandez*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 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
 Tomas Guillen (Brother of Joe) - Lymphoma

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:

Psalms 39

PM Sermon:

Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 27: *M. de la Garza*
 February 3: *E. Hipp*
 February 10: *J. Guillen*

FOR THE RECORD

January 17

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 43
 Sunday AM Worship 60
 Sunday PM Worship 40
 Wednesday Bible Study 45
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,640.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 6/24 (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