

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)

Matthew 23 (7)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

Give Me a Visioned Church

Shepherd's Corner:
We Must Be Concerned About Others

Continuing with the subject of priorities, the scribes and Pharisees were once again reprimanded for focusing on things of no or little consequence, rather than concentrating on items that meant something to God. Jesus said in verse 23, “*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you pay tithes of mint, anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weighted matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*” What had occurred was, the scribes and Pharisees were concerned more with their support and livelihood, along with the temple doings than great spiritual matters, which fell by the wayside. Let’s explain.

The law required the Jews to devote a tenth of all their property to the support of the Levites (Num. 18:20-24). Another tenth was to be paid for the service of the sanctuary, commonly in cattle or grain (Deut. 14:22-24). Also, there was, every third year, a tenth given to the poor (Deut. 14:28-29). While these voluntary gifts were given for the support of the priests, Levites, and the function of the temple, as years passed, the focus shifted from God to themselves. In other words, it became only about goods and services, rather than serving, worshiping, and obeying God as He commanded. Hence, in the

priest’s myopic mindsets they had omitted things far more important than their and the temple’s physical support; items like *law, judgment, mercy, and faith.*

What concerns God above all things physically is whether someone is keeping his commandments (1 Sam. 15:22), treated fairly (Amos 5:12-15), shown compassion (Micah 6:8), and convicted of righteousness (Isa. 66:2). This is why Christ compared these loftier ideals with plants and spices, demonstrating that the scribes and Pharisees were more concerned about inconsequential things. What it showed was, the mind of man, which everything emanates from (Pr. 4:23), was to be cared for and guided. But since these Jewish leaders were more focused on making a living, they lost sight of establishing the moral and ethical living God desired from His people and all men. And because they were so concerned with these baser items, the scribes and Pharisees “strained at a gnat and swallowed a camel” (v. 24). In other words, they lifted up things of no value, and allowed evil dispositions such as disobedience, injustice, being unmerciful, and faithless to persist. Thus, they fueled more sin into the world than upholding and commanding righteousness. May God be praised!

Give Me a Visioned Church!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, January 10, after our morning service.

The menu will be a chili cook-off. Bring your favorite recipe.

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.

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.

Last week, we looked at the blessing of being a prepared church. A prepared church is a prepared people. In other words, people who are ready for the challenges that lie ahead. They are ready, because they are prepared with the wisdom and insight needed to overcome challenges of life. But equally important with preparation is *vision*. God desires a "visioned church".

The word *vision* is the formation of a mental image of something that one wants to come to pass. In other words, as the etymology of this word teaches, something seen in the imagination. So although it is important to be ready to embrace the challenges that lie ahead with wisdom and insight, we must also think how we want our outcome to be; this is vision!

What is it that we see happening to us as we embrace the future? It is fitting then, as we enter a new year, to think about this concept here at Shenandoah. What vision do we have for us in year 2016? We already know that successes and challenges will come, so what do we see coming to pass? What we are asking is, will our vision lead us to success or failure?

As we use our imagination to fuel what we want to see for Christ's body here, what is it that we see? If we envision a growing church, then what will it take to make this happen? If we envision a more friendly and caring church, what will it take to make it happen?

I hope you can see the irony in all this. **The vision we have begins with me**, and not in the ideal of merely hoping things get done. In other words, people want

something to happen, but only if someone else does the work. This is why leaders are usually the "fall people" when a church is not successful, but to the contrary the success of a church depends on EVERYONE doing their part. What this comes down to is, a visioned church are people who see something come to pass by actually doing something themselves to fulfill it. Therefore, I must stop being a by-stander, bench warmer, or passer-by for the Lord. We must become active members, doing the work the Lord has commanded.

So if we want the church to grow numerically, let's invite our co-workers, friends, and family to our church services. If we want the church to be more active, by way of helping missionaries and other good works, let's give a little more of ourselves, time, and money in 2016. If we want more programs for the church, let's begin by volunteering our home and efforts.

If you have not seen it be now, the point is, a church with vision is a people with vision; not merely well-wishing things to happen, but actually doing things to make the church of our Lord all that it can be in our community. Let's work together and help each other to make Shenandoah a visioned church. Make suggestions known to our elders and leaders for ways to increase the congregation's influence within her community. Let's begin to show a desire, to not be simply a church that merely survives, but a church that is alive and well. 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

We Must Be Concerned About Others

Not as Cain, who asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9), we must look to the needs of those about us. When the lawyer asked Jesus for the most important commandment, the Lord replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God...and a second like unto it is this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Lk. 10:27). For a better understanding of love for neighbor, Jesus told the story of "the good Samaritan" to show that love demands our genuine concern - a concern that translates into help for the needy. We cannot ignore the hurts, the slights, the needs of those about us and still escape anxiety. We are part of mankind, and as such we are affected by what affects those who are living about us.

Paul wrote, "I am a debtor" (Rom.1:14-16), not because of what he had borrowed from others or what others had done for him. He was a debtor because of what God had done for him that he could minister to the needs of others. That same principle is true with us: "Let us work that which is good toward all men" (Gal. 6:10). We have been abundantly blessed by God, with both the spiritual and physical blessings He gives. That means we owe it to others to use those things God gives to minister to the needs (spiritual and physical) of those about us. Selfish living can only produce more anxiety, and the way out is to quit thinking of self and live for others.

As we now enter this New Year of 2016, we thank each one for your Service For The Lord, and encourage you to continue your walk with Him. Study your Bible much, much more, always make good choices, and be a good example to others.

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 3

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.*

Scripture: *Rom. 5:6-11*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; Z. Watkins*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 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

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); Dorries

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 35
PM Sermon:
Challenges to Godly Conduct and Character
 (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

December 20

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 33
 Sunday AM Worship 50
 Sunday PM Worship 28
 Wednesday Bible Study 33
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$11,884.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 7/15 (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

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