

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 (6)

Gabriel Rodriguez

### Inside This Issue:

**Give Me A Prepared Church**

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
**You Must Believe in Yourself**

Priorities is what made the scribes and Pharisees hated of God and Christ. Their skewed view of what was important angered the Lord. Therefore, Jesus said and noted, “Woe unto you, blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!...Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever swears by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty...” (vss. 16,18). But Jesus retorted with these rhetorical questions: “Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifies the gold?...Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift? (vss. 17,19). The point was clear and obvious, the more important things were those items commanded of God, which were to teach deeper spiritual truths; and not the aesthetics or gifts, which they put more attention upon. This is why Jesus concluded, “Whoever swears by the temple, swears by it and by him that dwelleth therein. And he that shall swear by heaven, swears by the throne of God, and by him that sits thereon” (vss. 21-22).

True religionists seek those things that are truly important. As Jesus said, “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon

earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6: 19-21).

The scribes and Pharisees were all about the aesthetics and gifts, and were less concerned with true spiritual matters, the building of one’s mind. Unfortunately, we see this trend today. Many churches today are merely concerned with how the building looks, what new gadgets the church can buy to make the worship hour more appealing, and what new programs will give them the popularity edge. These churches only reveal what matters to them most, and it’s certainly not the doctrine of God.

What pleases God are leaders and churches who are more concerned about pleasing Him and His true purpose in life, which is to learn and obey His blessed will. True spirituality is about learning, growing, and developing as God has called, fake spirituality is about playing the part and putting attention on things that really don’t matter. May God be praised!

# Give Me A Prepared Church

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The family home devotional will be on December 31 at 8:00 pm in the annex. Come bring in the New Year with brethren. Please bring games and finger foods.

### YOUTH

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

### YOUNG ADULT

No news at this time.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

As we enter into another year, we need to ask ourselves, "Are we prepared for what's to come?" As we been learning, people seek a church based on the wrong reasons. According to the Scriptures, we must seek after a church that meets the demands and fulfillment of the Scriptures, which is preaching and practicing TRUTH. But secondly, a church that pleases God is one that is prepared. But prepared for what?

Preparation is defined as the activity of putting or setting in order in advance of some act or purpose. As one studies the Scriptures, preparation is not solely intended for the budget affairs of the church, rather, preparation is intended for its members. Since the church is the people (1 Pet. 2:5), then it only makes sense that members of the church must be put or set in order in advance some act or purpose. The books of 1 and 2 Timothy, as well as Titus were given for this reason, to teach members of the Lord's church what they need to prepare themselves for in order to make the church more effective.

What we learn from these books is, a Christian is one who must set his life in order so that the work of the church can be fruitful. And what Paul covers in these three books deals with one's conduct and character. This is why the concept of organized religion is often seen as farce because its adherents aren't representing Christ and God well. Thus the reason Paul felt compelled to write three books that detail what

was expected of Christians. In short, God expects moral and ethical perfection from His people. This is what we ought to prepare ourselves for. The standard of God is very high, but think about this - God would not have set it so high unless He didn't think we could accomplish it. God believes in us as a church to prepare ourselves well for the battle of life that await us. So a prepared church means a prepared people, whose lives have conformed to the standards of God.

While this may be difficult at times, remember that God is anticipating that we overcome trials and learn from our mistakes. A prepared people, ready to tackle life's problems is what God truly desires, and this will only be accomplished when people seek and practice truth, the wisdom of God.

So, let's have as a goal in 2016 to become a prepared people (church). Let's show God that we are ready to tackle the problems that will inevitably face in 2016 by maintaining our conduct and character. Only then can the church truly become what it was intended to be - an example to the whole world as to how people behave themselves. 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

### You Must Believe In Yourself

If you believe in God, you must also believe in yourself for you are an instrument of God's power. Jesus said, "All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mk. 9:23). The reason that this is true is revealed clearly, "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:13). You see, "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). When we have the attitude of Jesus, "Not my will, but thine, be done" (Lk. 22:42), our lives will demonstrate the power of God. Belief in ourselves, then, is really a reflection of our belief in God.

The Young shepherd, David, met Goliath and was victorious. Why? Let him answer: "The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (1 Sam.17:37). David was confident. But his confidence was in God, not in himself. People like Moses (Ex. 14), Gideon (Judg. 7), Elijah (1 Kgs 18) and others succeeded because "God worked in them." So can we: "If God is for us, who is against us?...We are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:31,37). It was this kind of faith in the Lord that enabled Paul to write, "I can do all things through Christ" (Phil. 4:13). Paul knew he couldn't do all things; but he also knew that the Lord could use him to accomplish whatever He wanted done.

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, Oh ye servants of the Lord. Ye that stand in the house the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name;for it is pleasant" (Ps.; 135:1-3).

**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



# December 27

## AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *M. de la Garza; J. Mora; T. Mayces; J. Guillen*

Scripture: *Luke 23:33-38*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *J. Mokry*

## PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; G. Rodriguez*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Trevino*

After Greeter: *S & B Hernandez*  
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*  
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 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

### 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 34*

### PM Sermon:

*Congregational Singing*

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

December 16: *R. Baltierra*  
 December 23: *E. Lerma*  
 December 30: *B. Dorries*

## FOR THE RECORD

### December 20

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      49  
 Sunday AM Worship      60  
 Sunday PM Worship      47  
 Wednesday Bible Study      24  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,450.00/ \$2,376.10**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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