

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 Judges of Israel (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (22)

Shepherd's Corner:
Learn To Be Gentle

We'll begin a new written series in the book of Judges and discover some well known and not so well known Old Testament characters. To begin, we'll set the context for this book. After Israel had conquered the land of Canaan through the great leadership of Joshua as God had promised (Josh. 21:43-45), Joshua charged the people of Israel of their duty towards God while residing in the land (Josh. 23-24). In his charge, Joshua proclaimed one of the most quoted statements of the Old Testament: *“Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served...and if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”* (vss. 14-15). The people of Israel responded to Joshua's declaration: *“The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey”* (Josh. 24:24). Joshua then wrote these words in the book of the law of God and set up a great stone under an oak to witness to Israel all the words of the Lord which he had spoken that day (Josh. 24:26-27).

After some time had elapsed and Israel enjoyed peace and prosperity in the land, Joshua eventually passed away (Josh. 24:29-33), and with his passing a trepidation arose from among the people, saying, *“Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them?”* (Judg. 1:1). From this question we learn several things. First, the conquest of the land of Canaan was still in ongoing mission. Second, the people of Israel had to learn after Joshua's death that they

were going to be responsible for continuing the work of Joshua. In other words, they weren't only to have relied on Joshua's bravery and leadership during the campaign, rather God required effort from them as well. And as such, third, God commanded the tribes of Israel to go forth and continue the war campaign, to which they were relatively successful (Judg. 1:2-19a, 20-26). Unfortunately, Israel failed to conquer and annihilate all the inhabitants of Canaan as God had ordered (Judg. 1:19b, 27-36, cf. Deut. 7:1-2; Josh. 13:1-6). Because of their *“apparent”* fearfulness and cowardice to completely dominate the inhabitants of Canaan, an angel of God rebuked them for their disobedience (Judg. 2:1-2) and told them that the residue of people left would become *“thorns in their side, and their gods would become a snare unto them”* (Judg. 2:3). When the people heard these words, instead of emboldening themselves to destroy the people of Canaan as God had commanded, they shuttered in fear and wept unto the Lord (Judg. 2:4).

Instead of learning from mistakes and correcting them, the people of Israel sulked in their despair. They allowed a residue of Canaanites to exist with them, to which God warned, that the Canaanites would eventually influence and destroy them. And this is exactly what occurred. After the death of Joshua and other faithful leaders of Israel (Judg. 2:6-9), the Scriptures teach that *“there arose another generation which knew not the Lord, nor the works which he had done for Israel”* (Judg. 2:10). May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (22)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training Class is today at 4:00. The ladies are studying lesson 2 in the book, God's Makeover Plan, and the men are studying the minor prophets. Brother Hipp will be directing our thoughts in the book of Malachi.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be August 12th at 7:00 pm at the Hipps' home. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for August 26th. More details to follow.

AREA NEWS

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

Paul wanted the Corinthian brethren to be "*men in understanding*" (1 Cor. 14:20). This is why Paul *devalued* the ability to speak in a different language, if what was said could not be understood (vss. 6-19). This is why the **the process of interpretation** brought the most value, because through interpretation, people would know what was being said, and therefore, could then understand what to do, leading to appropriate action (Jas. 1:22-23). Since the mission of the church was to preach and teach the word of God (Matt. 28:19-20; Mrk. 16:15; Acts 8:1-2; 19:8), and there are many dialects in the world, Paul made an interesting observation in verse 22. He said, "*Wherefore speaking in a different language is a sign, not to Christians, but to those who are yet to become Christians; but prophesying does not serve non-Christians, but Christians.*" The ability to speak in a different language was for the purpose of speaking God's message to those who had yet to hear it and understand it. On the contrary, it was certainly not to showcase their ability to those who had already understood and obeyed the message. This meant that the ability to speak in a different language was not for the purpose of aggrandizing oneself to others, rather it was for the goal of reaching lost souls who had yet to hear, understand, and obey the gospel (Mrk. 16:15). This is why he then gives the example: "*If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with different languages, and there come in those that do not know the language or non-Christians, will they not say that we are crazy?*" (v. 23). In other words, speaking in a different language was for the goal of helping people to know and understand God's word, not parading as if they had some special power. The goal as we've noted already was to edify, exhort, and comfort each other, and this could

only be accomplished when people understood what was being said. This is why Paul continued to say, "*How is it then, brethren? when you come together, every one of you has a psalm, a doctrine, speaks in a different language, a revelation, and interprets. Let all things be done unto edifying*" (v. 26). Paul's point was, how can you all come together and do things separately, shouldn't the church be unified, and through that unification be edified? Then he proceeded to elaborate on this point by using, once again, the ability to speak in a different language and interpretation. He said, "*If any man speak in an unknown language, let it be by two, or at the most three, and they by course; let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church, and let him speak to himself, and to God*" (vss. 27-28). The point was clear and establishes what we've been looking at with regard to understanding. If no interpreter was present to make known what was being said, then God said no one was to speak. Why? Because it doesn't serve God's goal of knowing and understanding His message if people are confused as to what is being said. This is why Paul then gives an example of what happens when people know and understand what is being said. He said when someone prophesies and all know and understand, then "*all may learn and be comforted*" (v. 31). But in contrast, if someone said something that no one could decipher, because of a different language barrier, then the person was to remain silent. Why? "*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints*" (v. 33). 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

Learn To Be Gentle

"A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"(Prov. 15:1).

Many homes today are plagued by anger and harsh language. Many couples fail to speak kindly. Many more use criticism to try to motivate spouses or children. As a result, many marriages are filled with arguments and disputes. Sometimes those disputes are open and ongoing. Other times they are closed and unspoken. But the battle goes on. Many parents face this as well, struggling with adolescents who talk back and who are angry themselves.

How can we avoid all this anger? God's answer is simple. Learn to speak gently. Learn to get the edge out of your voice. When you speak to your spouse, speak softly and with a tenderness that reflects your love for your spouse. When you talk to your child, whatever the age, learn to be gentle, even as you speak of disagreements or disappointments.

Paul offers some key principles on this subject as well. "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear" (Eph. 4:29). Paul advises us to keep anything from slipping that is unwholesome. This simply means we are not to speak inappropriately in any situation. How much good could this one thing accomplish in your home?

Paul adds that we are to speak only with others in mind and that we are to speak to build them up, according to their needs. Too often our communication in our homes is designed to let us say our piece. In place of that God tells us to think of others and their needs whenever we speak to them. If a husband will put his wife's need first, especially when he is unhappy about something in his marriage, then his words will be gentle and will reflect a sincere desire to tend to his wife. If a wife will be gentle and think of her husband, then all thought of criticism and anger will be pushed aside when she speaks to him, even if she must confront some behavior she dislikes. If parents would speak gently to a child, even when unhappy about some aspect or attitude in the child, then family quarrels would be less likely to explode.

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



July 24

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; E. Castillo; R. Baltierra Jr.; J. Mokry*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:1-5*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; M. de la Garza*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Hipp*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

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

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
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Mayces

DEPLOYED: Jimmie Cardenas

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

August

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
NA
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Rodriguez
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Rodriguez
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Rodriguez
 Brother in charge of services:
NA

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 60
PM Sermon:
*Where Should the Power of Influence Come
 From?*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

July 27: *E. Castillo*
 August 3: *J. Guillen*
 August 10: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

FOR THE RECORD

JULY 17/20

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 34
 Sunday AM Worship 58
 Sunday PM Worship 35
 Wednesday Bible Study 32
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,402.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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