

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 Holy Spirit (20)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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True Faith Requires in Believing in Christ's Resurrection

Once Christ is formed in us (Gal. 4:19), meaning we possess the mind of Christ through knowledge and understanding (1 Cor. 2:16; 2 Cor. 2:14-17), this should lead us to mimic the actions of Christ (1 Jn. 2:6; Gal. 2:20) where we become “*alive through righteousness*” (Rom. 8:10). The idea of being alive is two-fold: (1) We’re no longer separated from God (Isa. 53:1-2) and have a relationship with Him (Eph. 2:11-16) and (2) if that relationship is kept intact with faithful obedience till the day of our death (Rev. 2:10), then we’ll have the guarantee of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:22-23). And this is Paul’s point in Romans 8:11, “*But if the spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that dwells in you.*”

Recall that the “*spirit of God and Jesus*” refers to their mind and actions dwelling in us (i.e., their characteristics). Why was this important? Because just as Jesus, who possessed the mind of God leading to righteous actions (Jn. 5:19-20), He was given the promise and actuality of the resurrection from dead (Jn. 17:1-5), which Peter preached and emphasized in Acts 2: 22-36. And based on what Jesus set in motion, Peter’s words in Acts 2:37-47 revealed that any man could follow in the same path (1 Cor. 15:23), if he or she remained faithful unto death (2 Tim. 4:6-8). This is Paul’s point moving forward in Romans 8:12-17. In order to secure the resurrection from the dead, one must “*hear the word and believe in God*” (Jn. 5:24) and

“*do good*” (Jn. 5:29). This is why Paul says, “*Therefore, brethren we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live*” (8:12-13). Paul made it very clear what he was speaking about. If we’re going to conquer death and hope in the resurrection, it will only come to those who have dominated carnal minds and replaced it with the “*newness of mind*” (Eph. 4:20-23; Col. 3:5). And those who have conquered sin are those who’ve allowed God and Christ’s mind and actions to indwell them. This is why Paul said, “*For as many as are led by the spirit (mind) of God, are the sons of God*” (8:14). In other words, to show whether we are genuine children of God depends in our actions, which is revelatory of our mind (8:16). Hence, we shouldn’t fear death, rather we should be confident in our relationship with God as our Father (8:15). And why is this important to note? Because now Paul changes his thoughts on why possessing the mind of God/Christ is very important - “*if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together*” (8:17).

The reason why God and Christ’s mind/actions were required was because experiences of life were now going to test their conduct and character, meaning their minds were going to be challenged severely, and only the strong would survive. In other words, the fires of life reveal God’s genuine people (1 Pet. 1:7-8). May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (20)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

Ladies Bible class and Men's Training Class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying Lesson 1 in the book, God's Makeover Plan, while the men will be studying the Minor Prophets.

Volunteers are needed to teach classes for the third quarter (July-Sept). A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. If you need teaching materials, please see Karen.

YOUTH

There will be no youth devotional for the month of July.

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young/middle aged adult devotional will be on July 23rd at 7:00 pm in the home of James and Carly Mora. The menu is healthy potluck. We look forward to seeing you with us.

AREA NEWS

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

Paul's emphasis in 1 Corinthians 13 to the church in Corinth was the idea of growing and being mature. And the only way this could be accomplished was through *understanding*. *Understanding* is the ability to know and comprehend the nature of a thing. In other words, to put together ideas and thoughts for clarity sake, and once clear, then right actions could be followed. In the midst of brethren squabbling over miraculous and natural abilities, Paul made it very clear that there was something greater in view, their maturation to become Christ-like in their thoughts and actions (13:11-12). And the only way they could accomplish this important task was through agape (love), meaning obeying the Lord (13:13; Jn 14:15). But here is the dilemma. Obedience can only be realized and practiced if correct understanding is present. This is why Paul in 1 Corinthians 14 will speak about the issue of understanding.

While many people get sidetracked over the apparent discussion of speaking in tongues, contextually, Paul is continuing his thought process from chapter 13. He says in chapter 14, verse 1, "*Follow after love, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that you may prophesy.*" Paul wanted the brethren to understand that obedience was the key to pleasing God. And obedience rests on the function of the mind, which incidentally as we've learned, the idea of "*spiritual gifts*" was abilities to stimulate the growth and function of the mind. In other words, the brethren's responsibility toward each other was to help them grow and become mature in the faith. Hence, every ability that man possessed, whether miraculous or natural, was toward that end. But Paul emphasized something great at the end of verse 1. He said that he greatly desired that "*prophesy*" take center stage. What did he mean by this? As we noted

earlier, maturity (Christ-likeness) is what Paul desired, and the only way this could be accomplished was through knowledge. Consider Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 2:14-15, "*Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish.*" The way Christ is seen in our lives is through the knowledge we possess. But more importantly, it is understanding knowledge correctly so that proper application can be practiced. This is called wisdom (Pr. 2:1-5; 4:4-8).

The word "*prophesy*" in its barest form means to declare truths through inspiration of God. Hence, what Paul ultimately wanted so that maturation in Christ could be practiced was "*edification, exhortation, and comfort*" through "*prophesy*" (14:3). The word "*edification*" referred to the building up of a person's life. The word "*exhortation*" referred to the act of helping someone toward moral excellence. And the word "*comfort*" meant to address someone for the purpose of persuading, arousing, or stimulating someone to greater works. Hence, the picture is clear. God's main objective for his people was to make sure that each person was being built up to moral excellence through words of encouragement and persuasion. And the only words that could accomplish this was God's eternal knowledge, which then had to be understood by His people (Eph. 5:17). With that in mind, Paul's takes on the discussion of speaking in tongues to a new level of understanding. It was not the speaking in tongues that glorified God, but the understanding of what was being said is what God deemed very important. 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

True Faith Requires Believing In Christ's Resurrection

Jesus often spoke with His apostles about His death, and just as often He told them He would, on "the third day be raised up" (Matt. 16:21). His resurrection had been foretold in prophecy (Psa. 16:10; Hos. 6:2) and promised by Jesus, Himself. Peter used these prophecies on Pentecost, then said of the prophet, "He foreseeing this spake of the resurrection of the Christ" (Acts 2:31). His resurrection is well-documented, in that Jesus appeared to a number of witnesses after He was raised. "Christ died for our sins...he was buried...he hath been raised on the third day according to the Scriptures; and that he appeared to Cephas; then to the twelve; then he appeared to about five hundred brethren at once" (1 Cor. 15:3-6). His resurrection was the final proof that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God." The apostle then writes, "But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead" (1 Cor. 15:20-21).

The resurrection of Jesus is a pledge of our own resurrection. As he was raised, so God promises to raise us from the dead. Peter said of God, "Who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Pet. 1:3-4). Because He was raised, we have assurance of the joys of heaven. It all hinges on His resurrection, as Paul wrote, "If Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins...If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable" (1 Cor. 15:17-19). Our hope is based on belief in His resurrection. Without such faith, we are without hope. But because He was raised. He has gone to heaven "to prepare a place for you...A building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens" (John 14:3; 2 Cor. 5:1).

Please give consideration to these things, as you study your Bible much, much more.

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



June 26

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; R. Baltierra; M. de la Garza; N. Essenowo*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:44-49*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Mokry*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; T. Mayces*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

After Greeter: *M. Weed; E. Castillo*
 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; Dorries (Ark)

DEPLOYED: Jimmie Cardenas

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JULY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Empett
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Trevino
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Empett
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
Empett
 Brother in charge of services:
J. Guillen

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 58
PM Sermon:
Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 29: E. Hipp
 July 6: W. Holmes
 June 13: G. Rodriguez

FOR THE RECORD

JUNE 19/22

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 45
 Sunday AM Worship 70
 Sunday PM Worship 48
 Wednesday Bible Study 42
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,514.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 11/25 (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