

# 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 (17)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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There are words and phrases that are key in understanding Paul's point in Romans 7:14-25. They are: “*law of my mind*” (vss. 23,25), “*my members*” (v.23), “*inward man*” (v.22), and “*sin that dwells in me*” (vss. 17,20). Taken collectively, one can see that the Apostle Paul is referencing the inner working of man's mind, which he elaborated in Ephesian 4:17-23. After residing in the world that placates to our fleshly desires (1 Jn. 2:15), our minds become fashioned and molded by sinful action (i.e., habits); hence, what Paul meant when he said, “*sin that dwells in me.*” Once our minds have been shaped by sin, then our desire to do the will of God is met with conflict with sinful mental habits (Rom. 1:24-26). This is why Paul said, “*I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members*” (v. 23). Paul categorized this battle as a struggle of will power between good and evil “habits” (vss. 15-16, 18-19). Since we've programmed our mind to think a certain way, fulfilling the desires of the flesh (Eph. 2:3), then our struggle to do right and delight in the law of God becomes difficult (vss. 22-23). Hence, the exasperation of Paul: “*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*” (v.24). In other words, what is the key in overcoming a sinful mind? Paul gave the answer: it falls on the willpower of man!

*Willpower* is the trait of resolutely controlling one's own thoughts and behavior. Paul said at the conclusion of his internal warfare: “*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So*

*then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin*” (v.25). Did you catch what Paul did? Paul first thanked Jesus Christ. Why? Jesus Christ, who lived in flesh and blood (Rom. 8:2; Heb. 2:14) and was tempted as we are (Heb. 4:15a), was an example that despite habits of mind and flesh being formed, one could overcome them just as Christ did (Heb. 4:15b). The point was, sin can be won with a powerful mind to overcome it (1 Cor. 10:13). Paul would say in 2 Corinthians 10:5 concerning thoughts and actions of sin, that we are capable of subjugating them under the obedience of Christ/God. Hence, the reason Paul said that “*with the mind I serve the law of God*”. Our minds have the ability through choice and discipline of will to triumph over sin, but if our minds are not disciplined and we allow habits we've formed to once again take root (cf. Matt. 12:43-45; Col. 3:5), then our choice of action will once gain be led by fleshly habits.

And the final key to assuring we don't give in to fleshly habits of the mind is strengthening and practicing new habits of mind and action. This is why Paul's thoughts and discussion in Romans 8:1-17 is about the idea of resolving to **put away** works of the flesh and walking after the spirit (v.1). Very similar to what Paul said in Galatians 5:24-25, “*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the spirit, let us also walk in the spirit.*” In other words, the conflict is between two mindsets. May God be praised!

# An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (17)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

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

A "Going Away" fellowship for the Hernandez family will be after the evening service on Sunday, June 19.

The Sunny Glen Children's Home is asking for Liquid Laundry Detergent and Powdered Drink Mixes. As before, you can either purchase these items on your own and place them in the library or give a check to one of the elders, memo the check for Sunny Glen, and the elders will buy what they need in bulk. We have till June 14 to make purchases or give donation.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be hosted by Sister Lucille Neaves on June 17 at 7:00 pm. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for June 24. More details to follow later.

### AREA NEWS

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

The age-old problem with people is, they think of themselves more highly than they ought (1 Cor. 4:6; Rom. 12:3), which was the major problem plaguing the Corinthian church. Although, as we've learned, there was a greater motive for the abilities men possessed (1 Cor. 12:1-11 - *to build up each other's mind and spirit*), man as usual had aggrandized himself because of their different abilities. But Paul quickly retorted their ungodly attitudes with an analogy of the human body. While the body of Christ was diverse (i.e., Jew/Gentile, male/female, free/bond) with possession of different abilities, Paul emphasized the oneness of the body (vss. 12-14) and likened it to different parts of the body. Paul's argument was "*If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole body were hearing, where were the smelling? But not hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him*" (vss. 15-18). In other words, every part of the body serves a function as God has deemed; therefore, "*the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of thee*" (v. 21). Paul's point was clear. Every part of the body is important, whether we think some are less significant. Paul said, "*...those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary, and those members which we think to be less honorable...have more abundant comeliness*" (vss. 22-23). So what was Paul's final point: "*That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another*" (v.25). And if "*one member suffer, all the members suffer; or one member be honored, all members rejoice*" (v. 26).

The body is and should be a tight knit community where everyone plays a part in the building up of the entire body (Heb. 10:23-24). Paul concluded with: "*We are the body of Christ and members in particular*" (v.27).

Paul then mentioned, once again, the roles each members would play (v.27) in the "*perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*" (Eph. 4:12). He then ended by expressing each other's difference and role, but made this important statement: "*But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet I show you a more excellent way*" (v.31). Despite the different roles and abilities members would possess, Paul said that there were "*better gifts*" to be desired. The word "*better*" (kreiton) is defined as more useful, more advantageous, and more excellent. The word "*gift*" (charisma) in this context is defined as godly character and holiness. So the point being made was, Paul told the Corinthian brethren to be pursue with great zeal ("*covet earnestly*") godly character and holiness which is more excellent and useful. This is what gives proof ("*yet show*") to the excellent manner of conduct. In other words, far beyond one's abilities to do this or that was the fact that our lives were to be lived in great conduct and character with each other in order to inspire others to live in the ways of God. And the one word that summed up the idea of godly conduct and character was *love* (1 Cor. 13). Why love? Love, according to the Scriptures, is an emotion of expression, suggesting obedience and service to others - two things needed to be pleasing unto God (Jn. 14:15; Jn. 15:12-16). Love should always be the motivation for what we do. But unfortunately, members of the church in Corinth had become so selfish that hate and selfishness became their focus. 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

### People marvelled At Jesus' Works

Nicodemus said of Jesus, "We know thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do the signs which thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2). After choosing the twelve, a storm threatened them on the Sea of Galilee; Jesus said, "Peace, be still", and there was an immediate calm. The apostles marvelled, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?" (Matt. 8:27). Jesus cast out evil spirits (Mark 5:1), cured lepers (Luke 17:12), healed the sick (Mark 1:32-34), walked on water (Matt. 14:26), raised the dead (Luke 7:14; John 11:44), and did many other signs that prove Him to be "the Christ, the Son of God." When John's disciples asked if He were the Christ, Jesus said, "Go tell John the things which ye have seen and heard; the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good tidings preached to them" (Luke 7:22). His miracles surely prove Him to be the Christ, the Son of God.

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." (John 21:25).

**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 5

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; N. Esenowo; B. Dorries; E. Castillo*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:33-38*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*  
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; R. Baltierra*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*  
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

### 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 (rehab, following surgery)  
 Mildred Geest

#### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

**DEPLOYED:** Jimmie Cardenas

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MAY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *Garcia*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper: *Dorries*  
 Auditorium Service Duties: *Garcia*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room *Garcia*  
 Brother in charge of services: *B. Dorries*

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 55*  
**PM Sermon:**  
*Leading by Example (1)*

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**June 8: E. Lerma**  
**June 15: B. Dorries**  
**June 22: R. Trevino**

## FOR THE RECORD

### May 29

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      44  
 Sunday AM Worship      64  
 Sunday PM Worship      48  
 Wednesday Bible Study      47  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$3,849.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/18 (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 Church email Address:

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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