

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 (18)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Now begins our journey into a misunderstood chapter in the book of Romans, chapter 8. We've already set the foundation for this chapter contextually, as Paul taught concerning a warfare between two mindsets (cf. 2 Cor. 10:4-5). In chapter 7, Paul identified the problem that so many people have after becoming a Christian, which Paul addressed in Ephesians 1:22 and 2:3, namely that while living in the world we often pick up bad habits of mind resulting in action, and now when we attempt and are focused in following the call of Christ, these two mindsets often conflict (7:22-25). So what was Paul's, ultimately God's, solution: "*There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit*" (8:1). This verse teaches concerning *desire, discipline, and action*. In other words, in order to squelch **bad mental habits**, one who has *chosen* (desire) to follow Christ must *loose himself* (discipline) from previous patterns of thought and action. And this is done by "*walking not after the flesh, but after the spirit*." The word "*walk*" is the Greek word *peripateo* and is defined as regulating one's life and/or conduct; to make one's way, progress. Therefore, it is up to the individual to control and/or maintain his life's actions. Now there are two impetuses that he has to deal with: flesh and spirit, which Paul introduced in the last chapter. The word "*flesh*" referenced a mind guided by the pleasurable impulses (7:5,23,25), while the word "*spirit*" referenced a renewed mindset to do the will of God (7:6,23,25). So now, there would be no condemnatory sentence to

those who suppressed and eradicated sinful mental habits ("*flesh*") and replaced it with a renewed mindset to live holy and pleasing unto God ("*spirit*").

Now the statement made at this juncture is, "It's impossible to eradicate sinful desires and live as God has called us live," but Paul addresses this in verse 2: "*For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death*." Going back contextually to what Paul said in Romans 6:4ff, that after baptism we have been raised to "*walk in the newness of life*" (v.4), and then he clarified what he meant by this in verses 6 and 7: "*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin*." It is our duty to kill the old man (Col. 3:5) (i.e., bad mental habits) and replace it with a new man, which is "*renewed in the spirit of your mind*" (Eph. 4:23) and "*in knowledge after the image of him that created him*" (Col. 3:10, cf. 1:15). According to Colossians 3:5, our ability to conquer and renew the power of the mind from sinful mental habits is through the example of Jesus Christ. For this reason, Paul said, "*For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus...*" In other words, through moral instruction given by Christ ("*law*"), our lives are invigorated/animated with life through the example of Jesus Christ, which showed us that life, namely sin could be conquered and dominated; hence, "*hath made me free from the law of sin and death*." Christ showed us the right mindset and life to possess.

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (18)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. All visitors are invited to enjoy a meal and fellowship with us.

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

Ladies Bible class and Men's Training Class will be June 26 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.

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

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

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.

Paul ended chapter 12 by emphasizing the desire to covet earnestly the "best gifts" apart from the ones mentioned in verses 8-10, 28-30. This didn't mean that the gifts mentioned in verses 8-10 were not beneficial, rather Paul was showing that their abilities were lacking an impetus, which he shows in chapter 13. Paul said, "*Though I speak different languages of men and messengers, and have not love, I've become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profits me nothing*" (vss. 1-3).

The point of Paul was clear. Instead of warring over who possessed the best abilities, love was to be desired, or else all their actions would mean nothing to God. But what did the concept of love mean? The word "love" is the Greek word *agape* and is defined as loving in a social or moral sense. It is a direction of the will and finding one's joy in something. Jesus gave these two senses in his ministry. First he said in John 14:15, "*If you love me, keep my commandments.*" And second, Jesus said, "*This is my commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do what I command you*" (Jn. 15:12-14). Christians are commanded to love in a social and moral sense. Therefore, the point was made. If Christians went through the motions of their abilities, but weren't obedient to God's commandments, then they became no one unto God and actually harmed their relationship with their fellowman. It first begins with who we

are, and once we get ourselves right in the sight of God, then everything else, namely our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, will become as God desires, strong and unified (Eph. 4:1-6). This is why, next, Paul gave a description of what true love was: "*patient, kind, does not envy, is not arrogant and rude, it does not insist on its own way, is not irritable or resentful, and does not rejoice at wrongdoing*" (vss. 4-6). The point was, Christians have a duty to each other in a social sense, but that duty of family and unity cannot be achieved unless our moral character is right. This is why Paul continued to say about love: "*rejoices in moral excellence (truth), protects and preserves (bears) moral excellence, has confidence (hope) in moral excellence, expects (believes) moral excellence, and perseveres (endures) in moral excellence*" (vss. 6-7). Moral excellence is what Paul ultimately noted as being the ultimate goal, and that "*(miraculous) prophecies, languages, and knowledge would cease*" (v.8b). What God was ultimately driving at was, the time was now that man understood his true purpose of life, which was: "*For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away with*" (vss. 9-10). The word "perfect" is the Greek word *teleios* and is defined as complete in labor, growth, mental and moral character. It refers to a man who has reached his full and mature age. This is similar to what Paul said in Ephesians 4:13 as the goal of the Christian, "*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*" The goal was to reach a state of moral perfection by directing our will (discipline) and finding joy in being obedient to God's will ("love"). May God be praised! **Bro. GR**

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

One Must Believe In Christ's Death

Prophets foretold of the death of the Messiah (Isa. 53), and Jesus told the apostles. "Behold we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests and scribes; and they shall condemn him to death...and to crucify" (Matt. 20:18-19). His death was no "historical accident." It was planned, "according to God's eternal purpose" (Eph. 3:11). Jesus willingly went to the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Understand, "The wages of sin is death...the soul that sinneth it shall die...That by the grace of God he should taste of death for every man...We thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died" (Rom. 6:23; Ezek. 18:20; Heb 2:9; 2 Cor. 5:14). Because we have all sinned (Rom. 3:23), we all must die. But Jesus died for us, paying our penalty. Thus Paul writes that we are "reconciled to God through the death of his Son" (Rom. 5:10).

When Jesus died on the cross, He shed His blood as the cleansing agent for our sins. Under the Old Testament, the blood of animals was regularly offered for sins. In fact, "Without the shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). But, "It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:4). That is why Christ, the perfect sacrifice, "The Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), went to the cross. Peter wrote that we are redeemed "with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:18-19). The purpose of the death of Jesus, and the necessity of our believing in His sacrifice, is the core of Paul's argument that we are justified by faith: "For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in His blood" (Rom. 3:23-25). Belief in the death of Christ, and the cleansing power of His blood, is vital for us if we would please God.

We encourage you to think on 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 12

AM WORSHIP

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

Scripture: *Rom. 5: 6-11*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *S. Amos*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *Z. Watkins; G. Rodriguez*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 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 (rehab, following surgery)
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Mayces

DEPLOYED: Jimmie Cardenas

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JUNE

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Rodriguez
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Holmes
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Garcia
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Garcia
 Brother in charge of services:
M. de la Garza

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 56

PM Sermon:

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 8: E. Lerma

June 15: B. Dorries

June 22: R. Trevino

FOR THE RECORD

JUNE 5/8

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 51
 Sunday AM Worship 63
 Sunday PM Worship 39
 Wednesday Bible Study 42
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,738.40**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/21 (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