

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 (19)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Christ is the key in overcoming sin. But how? He displayed what man could ultimately achieve in life - the conquering of sin and death (8:2). But what had been the problem? Paul said, *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh...”* (8:3a), references not the law of Moses (Matt. 5:17), rather those that served under that law, namely the Jews (Heb. 8:7-8). The Jews had inculcated evil habits of mind and action (*“the flesh”*, Rom. 7:5), which resulted in disobedience to God. But God demonstrated that the flesh wasn't the problem: *“God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh”* (8:3b). Jesus came in flesh and blood and dominated it to achieve what Paul said, *“That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after spirit”* (8:4). In other words, man has always had the ability to stifle the pleasures of mind and body, and walk as God had commanded. This is why Paul went on to say, *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after spirit the things of the spirit”*(8:5). The key word in this passage is *“mind”* (phroneo) which is defined as exercising the mind; to think. Paul made it very clear that there are two ways a person could exercise the mind, by giving in to sinful pleasures or disciplining oneself to remain righteous. This is why Paul then said, *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”* (8:6).

The ultimate battle is between two mindsets (Matt. 13: 14-15; Eph. 6:10-12; 2 Cor. 10:4-5).

The mind that is allowed to be captured by sinful thoughts will eventually lead to sin, and sin leads to death (Rom. 6:23), but the mind that is focused and disciplined to think and work out righteousness will result in life and peace (Eph. 4:20-23). Paul noted that the *“carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God”* (8:7-8). In other words, a mind that has been trained in sinful thoughts and actions makes itself an enemy of God (Rom. 1:21,24; Col. 1:21; Eph. 4:17-19; Jas. 4:4); and therefore, one imbedded in sin cannot be subject to the law of God, nor please Him. But on the contrary, Paul noted: *“But ye are not in the flesh, but in spirit, if so be that the spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his”*(8:9). The key phrases are *“spirit of God”* and *“spirit of Christ”* dwelling in us. What does this mean contextually? Since the context references the battle between two mindsets, then certainly Paul is speaking of replacing our old mindset with a new one (i.e., *“newness of spirit,” “renewed in the spirit of your mind,” “new man”*). This new mindset is reflective of the mind and life of Christ (*“Christ in you”*, 8:10a). And when we possess the mind of Christ then *“the spirit is life because of righteousness”* (8:10b). In other words, since thoughts lead to action, then possessing the thoughts of Christ will lead to enacting the actions of Christ; hence, making us spiritually (mentally) alive, which then results in killing the old man of sin (*“the body is dead because of sin”*). May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (19)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

A "Going Away" fellowship for the Hernandez family is today after evening services. Let's all join in and say our well wishes to this wonderful family.

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.

YOUTH

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

YOUNG ADULT

Our next young/middled age adult devotional is scheduled for June 24 at the home of the Rodriguez's. The menu is soups, sandwiches, and salads. 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 major concern for the church was their *spiritual maturation*. What is meant by spiritual maturation was the brethren's ability to think, know, and accomplish God's true will. And spiritual maturation **could only be obtained through understanding** (i.e., correct reasoning and application). This is why Paul emphasized understanding above all else (13: 1-3; 14:20; Eph. 5:17, cf. Pr. 2:1-6; 4:5-7). Once we truly know and understand God's message, then can we behave as God intended. This is love (*agape*) in action (13:4-8a), which seeks to obey God and build great social relationships, namely with church brethren (Eph. 4:1-15; Heb. 10:24). In the midst of their immature squabbling over who possessed the better abilities, Paul noted that their abilities, namely the miraculous ones, would one day cease (13:8b,10b), and that God's greater desire for spiritual maturation would take over (13:10a). This is why the word "*perfect*" was mentioned. The word "*perfect*" as we saw last week references an individual who was complete in labor and growth, **resulting in mental and moral maturity**. But this perfection could only be stimulated by a perfect message (knowledge). In James 1:25, James identified God's word as being the "*perfect law of liberty*." In other words, God's message, if properly interpreted and understood, makes his followers mentally and morally complete, resulting in true freedom from sin and death (2 Pet. 1:3-4). The point was, Paul wanted Christians to become spiritual giants and leave their spiritual infancy state. The concept of spiritual adulthood and infancy is one that is mentioned throughout the Scriptures. We are told that once we obey the gospel of Christ, we become new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17) and are seen as spiritual infants (1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:13). As infants, we are commanded to grow into maturity (Heb. 5:12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2

Pet. 3:18) and leave off childish ways. For this reason, Paul said, "*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things*" (13:11). The key word in this verse is "*understood*" (*phroneo*) which is defined as exercising the mind; to think. Paul informed the brethren that God's ultimate desire for them was to spiritually grow, meaning to conquer sin and death. But this could only be accomplished by exercising the mind to think. This is the ultimate mission for the true child of God. Why? Because our duty as God's people is to conquer sin and death (Rom. 6:12; 1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 1:16), and the only way to accomplish this is when we became a man - *mature* (cf. Heb. 5:14). This is why being mature and understanding go hand in hand. The more we correctly know the more we grow into the person God desires. This is why Paul wrote: "*For now we see through a mirror darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even also I am known*" (13:12). Paul used this same thought in 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, in which he noted there that it was God desire that we know and understand Christ so that we can become like Him (1 Jn. 2:6). And the only way we become like him is by looking into the mirror of God's word (Jas. 1:23-24), which gives us his thoughts and actions. And this was Paul's point. The Corinthian brethren were still infants in understanding, which resulted in their sin. This is why Paul said, "*And now abides faith, hope, and love; but the greatest of these is love*" (13:13). In other words, faith, which is knowledge (Rom. 10:17), and hope, which is expectation of heaven (1 Pet. 1:3-4), are only useful when love, which means correct/true (i.e., understanding) obedience is practiced. 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

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 19

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; A. Maldonado; S. Amos; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:10-12*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *T. Mayces*

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 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; Dorries (Ark)

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 57
PM Sermon:
A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

JUNE 12/15

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 55
 Sunday AM Worship 82
 Sunday PM Worship 50
 Wednesday Bible Study 42
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,976.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 10/25 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 Church email Address:

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