

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 (5)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (5)

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We Must Strengthen Our Faith!

Now that we've seen the power of thought leading to action (e.g., Eph. 4:15-16), I want to dig deeper into the functions of mind. There are several key words used in the Bible to describe the its functions. They are *thinking, contemplation, perception, distinguishing, reasoning, imagination, and computation*. A passage which expresses these functions is Romans 2:14-15. In the context of those innocent and guilty before God, Paul reminded Jews, who were biased against Gentiles, that it was the “*doers of the law*” who would be justified before God (Rom. 2:13). Paul then mentioned an interesting fact concerning the Gentiles: “*For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves*” (v. 14). The Gentiles, who did not possess the law of Moses, had been able to live according the fiats of the law of Moses. But how? Through use of their mental faculties. Paul said, “*Which show the word of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean of accusing or else excusing one another*” (v. 15). The three words we find relevant to our discussion are *heart, conscience, and thought*. The word “heart” is the Greek word *kardia* and it expresses the

thoughts and feelings of the mind. The word “conscience” is the Greek word *suneidesis* and it expresses the idea of contemplation and being able to distinguish what is morally good and bad. And the word “thought” is the Greek word *logismos*, which is from the word *logos*, and it expresses the idea of reasoning, the mental faculty of thinking, meditating, and calculating.

So we have a process by which the mind follows. The mind is an active agent of man which is responsible for reasoning through information (knowledge) given. This leads to the function of understanding. Interestingly, the word “mind” as used in Romans 1:28; 7:23,25; 8:5 is the Greek word *nous* and it expresses the idea of perceiving and understanding information. During the process of understanding the conscience is utilized, which means figuring out the pieces of information and connecting the dots for truth. Once this occurs, then we can take the correct path in life. Now if you've been paying close attention, this process is about us taking the information and understanding it, in order to make wise decisions. The point that Paul was making to the Jews was, the Gentiles used their mental processes while the Jews didn't; hence, their spiritual failures. May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (5)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after the morning service.

Everyone, especially our visitors, are invited to stay and eat with with us.

The men's dinner is scheduled for March 22, while the ladies' get-together will be on March 24. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

We are still collecting cream of chicken soups for the Children's Home of Lubbock. Please continue to bring these cans and place them in the box in the foyer.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for this Friday (18th) at the home of the Rodriguez family. Please make plans to attend.

Our youth have been invited to a Youth Day at the Southeast congregation on March 26 from 9a-2p. Registration will begin at 8am. Gabriel will be speaking on Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adults devotional will be March 25. More details to follow.

AREA NEWS

The Galena Park congregation has invited the youth and young adults to a camping trip (ages 12-24) at the SA KOA campsite at 602 Gambler Road on April 22-23. The speaker will be Obed Pineda. Meals will be provided.

Since Christians are "*our brother's keeper*" (Gen. 4:9), Paul discussed brethren's responsibility toward each other. At the end of chapter 8, Paul reminded the strong Christian of his proper example to those weak in the faith. Instead of creating dissension and confusion for each other, Paul encouraged brethren to live in a way that helped one another achieve the heights of spirituality. So how would this be achieved?

In chapter 9, Paul gave the answer, and it began with the idea of denying self. Jesus in his ministry said, "*If any man will come after me, let him deny self, and take up his cross, and follow me*" (Matt. 16:24). Paul reiterated these thoughts to the Corinthian brethren and showed that by denying oneself the kingdom of Christ, the church would blossom into what God desired, a place of strength and cohesion. Paul strengthened this argument by showing that as an apostle of Christ he was given the authority to be supported and live life in relative ease and comfort (vss. 1-12a,13-14). But Paul and his fellow apostles "denied themselves" and this was demonstrated through their lives: "*but suffered all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ*" (v.12b). Paul further expressed, "*...for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void. For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me*" (vss. 15c-17). The point being, Paul's mission was not self-aggrandizement, rather his mission was to fulfill the ministry of Christ, which was built on selflessness and service. In other words, if the church was to function as a unified unit, then it must be made up of individuals who do not seek self-glory, rather who minister

one to another (cf. Matt. 20:16). This is why Paul said, "*What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power of the gospel*" (v.18). Paul didn't focus on making money off the gospel, abusing his position, rather, as a servant, he simply gave of himself. This is why Paul said, "*For though I be free from all men, yet I have made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more*" (v. 19). The only thing that Paul counted worthy was being a servant to others. Paul did this by, "*Unto the Jews I became as a Jew...to them that are under the law, as under the law...to them that are without law, as without law...that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak...I was made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some*" (vss. 20-23). By becoming a friend and servant to all men, not their source of income or prestige, Paul would "gain" the most prized possession, the souls of men. This is what the ministry of Christ was about.

It's interesting that Paul ends chapter 9 with a focus on winning the prize. But contrary to popular belief, the prize isn't given to the most popular, wealthy, and intelligent among us, rather it is given to those that are wise, persistent, and disciplined. In verses 23-27, the goal was to achieve the prize of the incorruptible crown (eternal life). In order to avoid failure, a great work ethic and dedication to the cause, likened unto a runner running toward the end line, was needed. But as the nature of running indicates, the mind/body must be prepared and disciplined to finish the long and arduous course of life (Heb. 12:1-2). If not, then our lackluster efforts would amount to nothing. Therefore, don't run with uncertainty, but run with great purpose of mind, because only one receives the prize. May God be praised! **Bro. 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

We Must Strengthen Our Faith

"Not everyone who says to Me, ' Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). What kind of faith saves? There is only one way to have confidence that you are right with God. Do His will. That is true if you have never been baptized. We encourage you to do so today. Don't make arguments about why or when or all the other arguments that can delay this decision. Just trust God, and be baptized, after repenting, believing He will save you, as long as you live faithfully. This is true of a Christian already. Follow God as you increase your faith, doing more, giving more, obeying more. Watch your faith grow, and your understanding of God deepen. Believing is good. But only a visible, growing, perfected and enduring faith will ensure your eternal salvation.

James tells us, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead"? (James: 2:17-20).

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



MARCH 13

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mokry*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Lerma; J. Guillen; B. Dorries; N. Esenowo*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11:23-29*
 Sermon: *Ron Brown*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra Jr. J. Mora*

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

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Ina Dial
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon
 Joe Rendon (brother of Rosemary Rendon) - fighting high blood pressure and needs kidney transplant
 Glenn Gribble

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Lydia Cowan George Jackson
 Briana Nieves Sonny Cary
 Elwyn Hipp Gwen Parker
 Tomas Guillen Lori Main's father

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball (rehab, following surgery)
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MARCH

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:

Hipp

Preparing Lord's Supper:

Neaves

Auditorium Service Duties:

NA

Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room

NA

Brother in charge of services:

S. Hernandez

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:

Guest Speaker

PM Sermon:

"Make Full Proof Thy Ministry" (3)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 2: A. Maldonado

March 9: R. Baltierra

March 16: E. Lerma

FOR THE RECORD

March 6

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 44
 Sunday AM Worship 71
 Sunday PM Worship 36
 Wednesday Bible Study 40
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,013.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/28 (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