

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 (4)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Corinthians 12-14 (4)

*Shepherd's
Corner:*
Be Faithful Unto
Death!

We ended last week discussing the power of influence through cognitive power. What someone says can have a positive or negative affect on someone's life. The Proverb writer said, “*Life and death are the in the power of the tongue...*” (Pr. 18:21). And James said that speech “*is a fire...and setteth on fire the course of nature...*” (3:6). Therefore, if this is the case, then we can certainly see how God would impact man's existence - through communication, and communication comes from mind/thought (cf. Matt. 12:34; Jn. 4:24).

Jesus is described as the Word in John 1:1. The word “Word” is the Greek word *logos* and is defined as “something said, thought; reason, the mental faculty of thinking, meditating, and calculating.” Jesus, the *logos*, fits the description of God found in John 4:24, “*God is mind...*” who eventually “*...was made flesh, and dwelt among us...*” (Jn. 1:14). Putting all of these thoughts together we logically conclude that God (*mind*) put on flesh and blood (Rom. 8:2-3; Heb. 2:14), which shows Jesus became God's voice piece in the last days (Heb. 1:1-2). And this voice would be instrumental in influencing men to do good. What this confirms as we noted last week is, humans influence each other through the process of thought and communication. Once

thoughts are revealed through speech, this process would serve to impact all men, whether it be positively or negatively.

Our minds (thoughts/speech) is what actually controls the body. The Proverb writer said, “*As a man thinks, so is he...*” (Pr. 23:7), and Jesus said, “*For out of the mind evil thoughts (that lead to) murders, adulterers, fornicators, thievery, false witnesses, and blasphemies*” (Matt. 15:19). This means that however the mind is fed and programed (i.e., thoughts) will determine the movement (i.e., speech/actions) of the body. This is why in James 1:21-27, James speaks of “*receiving with humility the implanted word (logos), which is able to save your souls (life),*” and then mentions “*being doers of the word.*” Our mind (thoughts/speech) is the control center for the actions of the body, and thoughts/communication of others attempt to take over my mind, resulting in performing someone else's actions. This is exactly what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 when he spoke of the spiritual (mental) warfare, saying, “*Casting down prideful reasonings of men which go against God's knowledge, bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*” May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (4)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, March 13, after the morning service. The menu will be potluck.

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 March 18 at the home of the Rodriguez family. Please make plans to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

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

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

In the midpoint of Paul's epistle to the church at Corinth, Paul wrote the reasons there was so much disunity among them. It sprung from their *carnal* (sinful) *minds* (3:2), which resulted in poor behavior and a horrible example to the world. Paul reminded them that they were now "*washed, sanctified, and justified*" Christians (6:11), so act like it!

But their problems stemmed from a deeper issue - deep seated mental habits. Paul said, "*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any*" (6:12). In other words, while people have freedoms to do anything they desire, those freedoms could lead to actions that enslave their mental faculties. He used two examples of enslaving habits that often plague humanity - food and sex (6:13). Although these bodily acts are natural, Paul noted that "*every sin a man does is without the body*" (6:18), meaning the body was not the problem, the problem was contained in the mind, which leads the body and its actions (Pr. 4:23; 23:7; Matt. 15:19). This is why Paul says, "*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the holy spirit, which is in you which you have of God, and you are not your own?*" (6:19). In other words, the spirit of man (mind/thoughts) is what drives the body unto actions. Therefore, if we belong to God and His thoughts are supposed to be in our minds (2:9-16), then this will lead the body to holy and pure actions. This is why Paul says, "*...therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit (mind), which are God's*" (6:20). In other words, to showcase a holy example, our minds must be led by God's mind/thoughts, which will then result in the body being used for good and righteousness.

After this discussion, what better topic to segue into than marriage, where the body is used in sexual

activity (Ch. 7; Gen. 2:24). Paul addressed some concerns about the subject of marriage. First, he addressed the purpose of marriage, which was "*to avoid fornication*" (vss. 2,9), but second and more importantly, he spoke about the true reason for marriage, which was to help their spouse in their quest of faithfulness and righteousness (vss. 5,10-24; Eph. 5:22-33). Paul then addressed the subject of virginity, which revealed an amazing truth about pleasing the Lord. He noted that virginity is simply making sure the mind and body were kept pure and holy (vss. 32-34). Virginity is man's display of inner power to control himself, which demonstrates the power of mind over the body. Paul's purpose was to show the Corinthian brethren that their problem was *a weak mind resulting in sinful thoughts and actions*.

Paul's next item of discussion was the subject of idols (Ch. 8). Why idolatry? Because an idol is no more than a demonstration of man's selfishness and pride (his own thoughts leading him). In other words, it wasn't the idol per se that meant anything, because idols were of no value (8:4-5), it was the thought and value man placed on them. Paul said, "*Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. And if any man think that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any an love God, the same is known of him*" (vss. 1-3). The point being, the knowledge of value they placed on idols was the problem. Paul encouraged the brethren to value loving God and putting Him first in their lives by showcasing an obedient life unto Him (8:6). By doing so, their relationships for each other would become stronger as was needed by certain Christians with a "weak conscience." 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

Be Faithful Unto Death

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:7-8). A saving faith will be visible, it will grow over time, and it will be perfected by obedience. But a saving faith will also last until the end of life. Paul could confidently describe his expectation of His after-life because he had "kept the faith". Paul not only obeyed, he not only demonstrated and developed his faith, he also never quit.

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). Jesus tells us that we are to be filled with faith even to the point of death. If we are to have a faith that we can trust to save us, it must be a faith that doesn't quit in difficult times. We must have a faith that can endure the ups and downs of life. This faith is a faith that is tested by success and also by failure.

Some want to believe in God only for their own purposes. They seek a God who will bless them. Then, if life becomes hard or they face pain or failure, they turn on God. They blame Him for their struggle, they criticize Him for not making their lives better. This sort of faith it is not a saving faith. It is a faith based solely on what God does for the believer. Instead, we must develop a faith that endures even when life is difficult, even when we are in pain, even when disappointment and failure haunt us. Our trust in God must pass the test of hardship and struggle. Then, like Paul, we can say that we have "finished the course", and "kept the faith".

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 6

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; J. Mora; J. Mokry; R. Baltierra*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:6-9*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *M. de la Garza*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr*
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Richard Rodriguez
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)
 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

BATTLING CANCER:

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

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 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:

Psalms 43

PM Sermon:

"Make Full Proof Thy Ministry" (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 2: A. Maldonado

March 9: R. Baltierra

March 16: E. Lerma

FOR THE RECORD

February 28

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 55
 Sunday AM Worship 79
 Sunday PM Worship 37
 Wednesday Bible Study 38
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,068.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.
 San Antonio, TX 78230
 (210) 696-5532

Fax: (210) 696-5181

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