

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 (12)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Now that Christ has restored us to another opportunity for physical and spiritual life (i.e., “*spiritual blood transfusion*”), what is it that is required of us to begin the process? This is what Romans 6-8 deals with. Before we cover these chapters, let’s talk about sin and our state of mind. Remember earlier, Paul had said, “*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (3:23). This statement referred to, **that both Jew and Gentile races were guilty of sin**. This statement was more for the Jewish nation, who in chapter two had become so arrogant and despised the Gentile race, that Paul had to apprise them that their conduct was no better. So what had been the problem for each people? Paul said with respect to the Gentiles nation, that they had become “*vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened...Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts*” (1:21,24). Concerning the Jews, he said in concert: “*But after the hardness and impenitent heart treasure up unto thyself wrath...But unto them that are contentious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath*” (2:5,8). The problem was clear, the mindset of the Jews and Gentiles had become warped. The word “*heart*” in verse 5 references

the mind of man and in each set of verses, Paul referenced the corruption of the mind. The mind, as Paul noted in another passage, had become “*empty, understanding darkened, ignorant, blind, and callous,*” which led to being “*alienated from the life of God*” (Eph. 4: 17-19). And what was the only process that could restore their relationship back with God? Paul said, “*...hearing, learning, being taught, putting off the old man* (Col. 3:5-9), *and being renewed in the spirit of your mind*” (Eph. 4:20-23). As you can see, the process of communication, coupled with a person’s willpower and discipline, was the only way a person could be brought back to a regenerate state (“*renewed*”), restoring a powerful thought process (“*spirit of your mind*”). The point being, a person’s mindset had to be changed if they were to “*put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (Eph. 4:23). This is why when asked how a person is saved, Peter responded, “*Repent and be baptized...*” (Acts 2:38). A person’s mind has to be willing to change by creating another mindset, leading to a different disposition, and then comes the act of baptism, which solidifies the change in a dramatic (symbolic) way, which emphasizes the need to transform the mind. May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (12)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

We congratulate Stephen and Belinda on the birth of their son, Samuel Hernandez, who was born Thursday at around 5:40 pm. He weighed 7 lbs, 9 ozs, and is 20 1/2 long. Thanks be to God.

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, May 8, after morning service. Since it will be Mother's Day, the men are asked to bring a favorite dish.

The men's dinner will be May 24, while the Ladies' Get-together will be on May 26. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

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

The youth devotional will be hosted by sister Sarah on May 13th at 7:00 pm in the Annex Building.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional will be hosted by sister Carolyn on May 27th at 7:00 pm. More details to come later.

AREA NEWS

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

On the heels of the import of the LS, which is a demonstration of humility, selflessness, and obedience to God, Paul now addresses the problem concerning spiritual gifts (12-14). Instead of honoring God and growing the fledging church with their respected spiritual gift(s), the church at Corinth had turned their gift(s) into a *hierarchy of individual importance*. The spirit of competition and individual importance was and is a recurring problem in the church. Recall, in Matthew 20:20-28, that the mother of Zebedee's children (James and John) asked Jesus whether her two sons could sit with him, one on the left and the other on the right, in his kingdom. Jesus responded by saying that those greatest in his kingdom were those who would serve others (vss. 26-28). The point being, it wasn't about individual honor and importance, it was about serving and helping our fellowman. And this would be Paul's point in the discussion of spiritual gifts, that no one is important, all play a vital role in the development of the church by serving each other with gift(s) given to them.

And this was Paul's point in Romans 12:3ff, when he spoke concerning spiritual gifts: *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith...So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the*

grace that is given to us..." (vss. 3-6). Paul emphasized that a person was not to think of themselves more highly than he ought to think, rather *"let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another"* (vss. 9-10). In other words, since they all belonged to the body of Christ (*"many members"*), and the body is one, each was to treat each other with kindness and respect. Therefore, it didn't matter what gift one possessed, their gifts, whether miraculous or natural, were to be used to *"distribute to the necessity of the same and be given to hospitality"* (v.13). The church's ultimate mission was to love, care, and encourage one another (Heb. 10:24). They were to mimic the same characteristics as Christ (Jn. 13).

The whole purpose of spiritual gifts is as the word *"spiritual"* indicates, the building up of the mind of man. This is why prior to Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts in Romans 12, he speaks of *"the transforming and renewing of the mind."* Instead of focusing on what really mattered (man's mind), he brethren were tearing down each other's mind with a demonstration of selfishness and pride, that one is better than another. This became an affront to God and Christ's ministry. And their behavior belied the true meaning of possessing a *"spiritual gift"* as we shall see next week. 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

What About Faith That Is Never Tested?

"Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself" (James 2:17). A faith that saves will be an active faith. A faith that is never tested in the waters of obedience will never sustain a soul through troubled times. Sadly, there are many who are willing to believe in a God, but only if that God demands nothing from them. Our God has always wanted more than worship from His children. He wants us to change our hearts and our actions. An untested faith changes nothing, it merely relies on God to do it all, while the believer goes on living by his own values.

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any one wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). Jesus was clear in describing the kind of faith that's saves. It is a faith that requires self-denial. There is no room in real faith for someone to be selfish or to follow his own desires. It is also a faith that dies to self, that accepts the way of the cross in all things. Finally, it is a faith which follows. How a believer can sit back and let God do it all and still be following is beyond understanding. To follow implies and demands action on our part.

Faith always requires action on the part of the believer. "For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (2 Cor. 5:14-15). Yes, Jesus died and rose again in order to save us. That is God's grace reaching out to us. But this great gift was not given to us so we could remain unchanged and self willed. This gift was given so that we could live for him. Again, we are called to believe and act.

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



May 1

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; G. Rodriguez; T. Mayces; J. Mokry*

Scripture: *Matt. 26:26-29*
 Sermon: *Guest Speaker*
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; J. Guillen*
 Sermon: *Guest Speaker*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*
 AV Duty: *Baltierra Jr.*
 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
 Glenn Gribble
 Torres' family
 Rose's aunt (Mary Hardiman)

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); Hipps

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:
Guest Speaker
PM Sermon:
Guest Speaker

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 4: *J. Guillen*
 May 11: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 May 18: *T. Mayces*

FOR THE RECORD

April 24

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 48
 Sunday AM Worship 66
 Sunday PM Worship 36
 Wednesday Bible Study 36
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,685.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/21 (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