

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 (15)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Decide!

The point of Romans 6 is to show our responsibility in putting away sin from our lives. As was noted previously, baptism washes away past actions of sin (Acts 2:38), but doesn't wash away mental habits (Eph. 2:4). This is where we must “*crucify*” the old man (i.e., mental habits) (Gal. 5:24) by “*destroying the body of sin, that henceforth we should not serve sin*” (Rom. 6:6). Paul's point was, we must dominate wicked mental habits and bring them into subjection unto righteous thoughts and actions (Rom. 6:7-10). We begin the process through self-discipline and determination to change our mental habits. As Paul said, “*Let not sin reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof*” (Rom. 6:12). This passage makes it clear that sin doesn't have the power many give it, rather we can dominate sin if we choose (cf. 1 Jn. 4:4; 1 Cor. 10:13). Paul went on to say that whatever path we choose, either “*sin unto death or obedience unto righteousness*” (Rom. 6:16), will determine what reward or consequence we eventually possess - eternal death or eternal life? (Rom. 6:23). But one thing Paul emphasized was, we allow ourselves to become “*servants to sin or righteousness*.” In other words, whichever we yield ourselves unto, whether “*servants to uncleanness or righteousness unto holiness*” (Rom. 6:19), we demonstrate its fruit (Rom. 6:20-21).

Paul then juxtaposed the marriage law (Ch. 7) with his thoughts in Chapter 6. The marriage law was simple. A couple is bound together so long as they both live, but once a partner passes away, then the spouse is loosed from

the law of marriage and is able to marry another (vss. 1-3). In like manner, once the consequence of sin is disposed of through the act of baptism and its power destroyed through a determined and renewed mental effort, we are thus free from its union, and able to marry another, namely Jesus Christ (i.e., his system of belief and action), which is “*that we should bring forth fruit unto God*” (v. 4). Our actions speak volumes about who we are. Therefore, actions will ultimately determine to whom we belong. Paul said, “*For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death*” (v. 5). Paul described our state prior to the message of salvation. We were led by our pleasure system (i.e., emotions), which eventually formed wicked mental habits, leading to ungodly actions. The purpose of the law was to identify and condemn the actions (7:7-10). “*But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter*” (v. 6). The actions of sin brought forth consequences of eternal death, which the law had unequivocally condemned without recourse, but now through Christ and his system of repentance and baptism (Rom. 6:2-4,17), we are now able to renew our mind (“*newness of spirit*”) (Eph. 4:23) and avoid the condemnatory message of sin (cf. Heb. 10:1-4). And although man was able to form a renewed mind, the goal to keep the mind pristine and free of sin become a great challenge. May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (15)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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.

The Ladies Bible class and Men's training class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 13 and the men will be studying the book of Haggai as presented by bro. Austin Maldonado.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be hosted by Lucille Neaves. Day and time to be announced later.

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.

The keen observer must be aware that despite the talk of miraculous powers mentioned throughout the New Testament, not every ability mankind possessed was supernatural. For example, in Romans 12:7-8 and 1 Pet. 4:9-10, abilities are mentioned that don't have reference to supernatural ability (i.e., ministry, teaching, exhort, giving, etc.). Also, in the parable of the talents (Matt. 25: 14-30), it seems to suggest a natural component to abilities garnered. Therefore, contextually in 1 Corinthians 12, when the goal was to build each other's mind through their different abilities (i.e., "*manifestation of the (human) spirit given to every man to profit withal*"), why couldn't the meaning be (by and large) refer to the use of natural abilities? As was noted last week, Paul begins with knowledge understanding, wisdom, and obedience. While certainly miraculous knowledge and wisdom were given, as in the case of inspiration (2 Pet. 1:20-21), let's not lose sight of the individual's responsibility to understand, apply (wisdom), and obey (faith) the knowledge of the Lord given to them (Eph. 5:17, cf. Gal 2:11-12). The point being, while God begins with the supernatural, the people had to do their part in ascertaining abilities. In other words, God wasn't always going to help them, but they had to eventually help themselves. And the reason why God begins with knowledge, wisdom, and application is because this is what sets the foundation for success in the church. In order to thrive, God's people must possess knowledge, correct understanding, which in turn leads to correct actions of life.

Once a person lives in correct conformity to God's will, then he or she can give "gifts of healing." While certainly this could refer to physical miraculous healing, it's interesting that the word "*healing*" can also refer to curing someone of sin and error,

bringing about their salvation (cf. Gal. 6:1). We see this sense used in Luke 4:18 (cf. Hebrews 12:13; James 5:16) where Jesus came to "*heal the brokenhearted.*" So what does this suggest? Through our efforts of embracing knowledge, understanding the knowledge, lead to wisdom and obedience, we can help others in their struggles (i.e., sicknesses) of life (Heb. 12:12-13; Jas. 5:14-16). In essence, we are attempting to restore their broken down mind to prominence. This then fits with the next ability mentioned - "*the working of miracles.*" While once again, the miraculous could be suggested, it seems more likely to refer to something natural.

The word "*work*" (energema) suggests to display one's activity, to show oneself operative. The word "*miracles*" (dunamis) suggests in this context, inherent power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, i.e., moral power and excellence. Hence, through knowledge and correct understanding, leading to wisdom and obedience, we then put ourselves in a position to help others cope with their sin sick lives, helping to restore their minds back to moral excellence. By doing this, we then become "*prophets*" (i.e., prophecy), which suggests we are able to **make known the mind of God through our actions of life**. This is what a prophet was, someone who made known the mind of God through communication, but for Christians, not only to make known the mind of God through words, but more importantly, **through one's action**. Once we display God's correct actions, then can we "*discern the spirits*" through fruits they bear (Matt. 7:15-20; 1 Jn. 4:1). In other words, we'll know through their words and lives they manifest, who are from God and who are from the world (1 Jn. 2:3-6; 12-17). But since knowledge is where everything begins, the gift of speaking in different languages was a necessity. May God be praised! 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

A Faith That Can't Decide

There is another type of faith that will not save. This is a faith that will not make a full commitment to God and His will. Jesus asks us for a decision to follow Him without wavering. "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters" (Matt. 12:30). Jesus wants people whose faith will not be divided, but will be totally given to Him. "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24). A faith that is indecisive in its loyalties cannot save.

This requires us to have a faith that examines, and explores and questions to be sure of God's will. "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22). Believers are not gullible or naive. They search for truth, they examine ideas and doctrines to be sure of their faith. they hold to the good (that which comes from God and his Word) and reject the evil (that which is opposite to God and his revealed Word). It boils down to the challenge Joshua made to the people of God in his day. "And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). God knows we have many options. Some of those are tired and outworn ways of our past. Some of those are the current trends in human thinking. But whether old gods or new, we are called to stand for the One True God and be undivided in our loyalty to Him and His Will.

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 22

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mora; N. Ezenowo; R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado*

Scripture: *Jn. 19:17-22*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; S. Hernandez*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 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
 Cruzie Willey (bloodclot)

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)

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:

Psalm 52

PM Sermon:

Titus Introduction (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 25: *G. Rodriguez*

June 1: *R. Baltierra*

June 8: *E. Lerma*

FOR THE RECORD

May 15

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 41
 Sunday AM Worship 70
 Sunday PM Worship 41
 Wednesday Bible Study 38
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,659.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/23 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:

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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