

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 (16)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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There is a constant battle that takes place in the mind of man, even after baptism. While baptism washes away our past sins (Acts 2:38), it does not get rid of mental habits we've formed while growing up (Eph. 2:3). Paul said that prior to becoming a Christian, “...we were in the flesh and the motions of sin did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death” (7:5). This meant that our sinful actions were connected with physical pleasures of the body (i.e., flesh), which is ultimately connected with the mind (Col. 1:22; Matt. 12:34; 15:18-19). In other words, we form sinful mental habits based on things that bring us physical pleasure/happiness (cf. Jas. 1:14-15). But once we were taught the “*form of doctrine*” (Rom. 6:17, cf. Acts 2:37-38), meaning we were enlightened by God's word concerning our true plight in life (sin unto death), we were taught what “*made us free from sin, becoming servants of righteousness*” (Rom. 6:18). In other words, the doctrine of Christ is about taking control of our mind and by following Christ's words and example, we now should serve God with a “*newness of spirit*” (Rom. 7:6). This is the key to understanding Romans Chapter 7:14 through 8:17.

As was mentioned in Chapter 6:4, once we arise from the symbolic gesture of baptism, which is a resurrection, our sins have been washed away, and now we are commanded to “...walk in the newness of life.” In other words, it is our responsibility to renew our life, and we do this by purposing in our mind to rid ourselves of sinful mental habits/actions and yielding our members (body) to be

instruments of righteousness (Rom. 6:5-14). But Paul mentioned a great obstacle in achieving this goal, and this is where Romans 7:14-25 comes into view.

Paul said, “*For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin*” (v. 14). Paul recognized that the law of God gives us proper guidance, but the law battles a mind whose master has been sin. The word “*sold*” (piprasko) is defined as “of the master to whom one is sold as a slave; under the control of.” Therefore, what a person deals with is a mind whose master has been entrenched wicked thoughts and actions. Hence, Paul recognized the great problem an individual would encounter as they sought to live a renewed life. It's difficult to remove inveterate habits. Sort of like the habits of eating and sexual pleasure (cf. 1 Cor. 6:12-20). Once we determine to live differently, the battle of addiction is real. For years we've given in to physical pleasures and have established patterns of thought/action. But now we wish to change the mental and bodily cravings. So the battle lies between will power/discipline and old habits we've formed. This is why Paul says, “*For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I*” (v.15). The point was, because of habits formed in our minds, these habits wrestle with the “*newness of spirit*” goal, which clearly is a conflict between the old and new mindset. This coincides with the teaching of repentance and the reason it precedes baptism. This is where the work of transformation begins and ends. May God be praised!

# An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (16)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

We congratulate Adalina Rodriguez who obeyed the gospel last Sunday night. We welcome her to the faith of God.

Volunteers are need to teach classes for the third quarter (July - September). A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. If you need teaching materials, see Karen.

A "Going Away" fellowship for the Hernandez family will be after the evening service on Sunday, June 19.

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

Our next youth devotional will be hosted by Sister Lucille Neaves on June 17 at 7:00 pm. All our youth are encouraged to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional is scheduled for June 24. More details to follow later.

### AREA NEWS

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

The last two abilities mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 references the idea of the dissemination of knowledge - *speaking in tongues and interpretation of those tongues*. But what did it mean to speak in tongues? We read in Acts 2 that the Apostles were given the ability to speak in tongues, but find that they spoke "*other intelligible languages of men*" (vss. 2-8). While the people were amazed at their ability to speak in their language, **the import wasn't them speaking in different language, rather it was put on the message they were proclaiming**. The message possessed relevance (Acts 2:21-36) and through their message the hearers were ultimately saved as they responded to it (Acts 2:37-41). Likewise, in 1 Corinthians 12:10, the ability to speak in a different language was not what was important, rather what was said. This fits with the dissemination of knowledge, which is needed for people to be saved (Rom. 10:13-15). Through the revealing of God's word (knowledge), people would be given information to consider and meditate upon. And once they took the time to study (2 Tim. 2:15) and understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17), then the people could know how to apply the knowledge correctly (i.e., wisdom). Hence, God wanted His knowledge to be spread to all men (Matt. 28:19-20; Mrk. 16:15; Col. 1:23), and knowing that men spoke different languages, the ability to communicate God's word in all languages was imperative. This is why interpretation of language also became important. We see this happening in Nehemiah 8:8 when certain Jews, (after their captivity and assimilation to another nation), had picked up another dialect and Ezra and Nehemiah "*read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.*"

What we further gather from the text is, not everyone was given the ability to speak in a different language,

which suggests that the thrust was not on the ability to speak in tongues, rather the message being delivered and its interpretation for those who did not understand. This tells us that God ultimately desired people to know and understand His message. But the problem Paul encountered was, Christians were putting more focus and attention on their ability to speak and interpret, rather than what was being said. This is why in the context of building up each other's mind, Paul ends the discussion of disseminating knowledge ("*speaking in tongues*") and understanding it ("*interpreting*"). Unfortunately, as they had back then, you have the some today who emphasize the act of speaking in tongues, (which is merely a sham), more than what God wants us to know. This stems from a false comprehension as to what "tongue speaking" is about. It's not about showcasing our abilities to man, it's about knowing and understanding God's will, and making sure His knowledge is spread throughout the world.

Paul ended his discussion by saying, "*But all these work by one and the same spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will*" (v.11). In other words, their (the church's) efforts ("*works*") was for the purpose of being one in mind and action ("*one and same spirit*") (cf. Phil. 2:1-4); to bring the family of God together as Paul told the church in Ephesus (Eph. 4:1-4).

Paul then validated the issue of unity though they were many through the example of the human body. Paul said, "*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ*" (12:12). Paul emphasized that they were to be led by the same *spirit* (i.e., mind): "*For by one mind are we all baptized into one body...*" (12:13a). 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

### "Who Do Men Say That I Am?"

Jesus once asked the apostles, "Who do men say that I am?" and they gave a variety of answers. But than He asked, "But who say ye that I am?" Peter answered for them, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:13-16). The religion of Jesus Christ is based on faith, a faith which fills every aspect of the lives of His followers: "From faith unto faith, as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:16-17). We are "justified by faith" (Rom. 5:1), we are "saved by faith" (Eph. 2:8). In fact, "Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto Him" (Heb. 11:6).

The Jewish leaders opposed Jesus, and often sought to discredit Him with the people. As they discussed Jesus, He told them, Except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). There was ample evidence that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. One of those rulers told Jesus, "No one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him" (John 3:2). They knew. And Jesus later told them, "If ye believed Moses, ye would believe me; for he wrote of me" (John 5:46). If one is to please God, he must believe in Jesus. That is why Jesus, when He sent the apostles to preach the gospel, told them: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

There is much more to this "belief" or "faith" than just believing that Jesus lived, that He taught, and that He was a good man. True faith involves believing certain things with regard to Jesus

**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 29

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; R. Baltierra Jr.; T. Mayces; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:27-35*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *G. Rodriguez*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *B. Dorries; E. Lerma*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *E. Castillo*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*  
 Greeter/Usher: *R. Baltierra*  
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*  
 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 (blood clot)

### 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 53*

### PM Sermon:

*Congregational Singing*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 25: *G. Rodriguez*

June 1: *R. Baltierra*

June 8: *E. Lerma*

## FOR THE RECORD

### May 22

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      32  
 Sunday AM Worship      52  
 Sunday PM Worship      37  
 Wednesday Bible Study      48  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,272.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/12 (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:

[shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org](mailto: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