

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 (13)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (13)

Shepherd's Corner:
A Caring Faith

Romans chapter 6 begins the process of *spiritual restoration*. As we learned from chapter 5:12-21, Adam brought sin and death through disobedience, while Christ brought righteousness and life through obedience. Paul then rhetorically argued whether one could continue in disobedience (sin) and rely on the grace of God? The answer was unequivocally no! Paul asked, “*How shall we, that are dead in sin, live any longer therein?*” (v. 2). In other words, sin kills and destroys our relationship with God, which means literally, that we become “*enemies with God in our minds by wicked works*” (Col. 1:21); thus, rendering us *spiritually* (i.e., mentally) dead (cf. Eph. 4:17-19). So how would man be restored, or asked in another way, how would our minds be restored back to God? Answer: through the death and resurrection of Christ.

Paul said, “*Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death...*” (vss. 3 - 4a). The word “*death*” comes from the Greek word *nekros* and is defined as one who is lifeless, but in this context, refers to one whose mind has no life (e.g. Eph. 2:1,5; 5:15). Hence, a mind that has become “*vain and darkened*” (Rom. 1:21), “*hard and impenitent*” (Rom. 2:5), and “*alienated from the life of God*” (Eph. 4:18). So,

what was Paul’s point in Romans 6:3-4a? It was connected with Peter’s salvational statement in Acts 2:38, “*Repent and be baptized...*”

Prior to baptism being observed, repentance was commanded, meaning to change one’s course of thinking leading to different course of action. Hence, repentance is submitting to new mindset and actions, as Paul mentioned in Colossians 3:1-5: “*...seek those things which are above...Set your affection on things above...For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God*” (vss. 1-3). In other words, we must desire to seek God’s will and change, i.e., “*kill the old man* (sinful habits of the mind/life)” (v. 5a). This happens only when our life is hid in Christ. In other words, we must make Christ’s life our own life (1 Jn. 2:6), and if this is the case, then we must be committed to living a righteous and obedient life (i.e., repentance). Baptism then follows the process of repentance. Why? Baptism is symbolic of a death as Paul addressed. And what does baptism consist of? “*Much water*” (Jn. 3:23), for the purpose of a symbolic burial. Water, which is a cleansing and life giving agent, would be used to bury a person’s body, not for the purpose of cleansing the body, rather to cleanse the mind (1 Pet. 3:21). May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (13)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

We give out a big thank you to all our mothers who have done and continue to do so much for us.
Happy Mother's Day!

The fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. We welcome all our visitors to stay, eat, and fellowship with us.

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 will be on May 22 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

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.

The problem with many people's interpretation of 1 Corinthians 12-14 is their infatuation with the "miraculous" gifts, which Paul, as we will see later, likened unto childish items. But the key to understanding these chapters is the context and definitions of words. **The context as revealed in chapter 11 centered on the subject of selfishness and lack of humility, which was in stark contrast to the symbolic meaning of the Lord's Supper.** This mentality spilled over into the discussion of "spiritual gifts." The word "spiritual" is crucial in understanding, because as we shall see, its definition continues the theme of the context. The Greek word is *pneumatikos*, which comes from the root word, *pneuma* ("spirit"), and is defined in various ways, but in keeping with the context, refers **to the mind of man - the rational spirit of man which feels, thinks, and decides.** The word "gift" is the Greek word *charisma* and is defined in this context as an endowment (a quality or ability), but it comes from the root word *charis*, which means to influence souls in the faith, knowledge, affection, and virtues. Hence, the idea of "spiritual gifts" refers to qualities or abilities which "influence" the mind of man. This has been Paul's major theme since chapter 1. The Corinthian brethren were commanded to influence each other in a godly way (1 Cor.3:15:33). And the only way this would be accomplished was through selflessness and humility, as demonstrated through the

symbolic act of the Lord's Supper (11:23-34).

And now with regard to gifts given by the Holy Spirit to the early church (cf. Heb. 2:4), they were supposed to have been used to build up each other up (i.e., "spiritual gifts"), not tear them down. This is why Paul said, "Now concerning the spiritual (the mind of man), brethren, I would not have you ignorant. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led" (vss. 1-2). Paul's point was, now concerning their minds leading to actions (Pr. 4:23; Pr. 23:7; 2 Cor. 10:4-5), Paul reminded the brethren that a true follower of God is not a "double-minded" person (cf. Jas. 1:8), meaning, someone who purports to be a representative of God must live as He has commanded and not be led away unto idolatry/worldliness (v. 3).

Paul now turns his attention to three phrases which will set the tone for his evolution of thought in chapter 12. Paul said, "Now there are *diversities of gifts,*" "differences of administrations," and "diversities of operations" (vss. 4-6). The Greek word for "diversities and differences" is *diairesis* and is defined as a variety, division, and separation. And what had God given in variety? "Gifts," which is defined as abilities, "administrations," which is defined as service, and "operations," which is defined as self labor or to prove oneself. Based on these definitions, the message of the the true functions of spiritual gifts was even more clear. 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 Caring Faith

As James defines the kind of faith we are to have, he points believers toward a faith that is compassionate and caring. "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" (James 2:15-16). James is talking about a faith that acts, but also a faith that acts out of compassion. How can anyone claim to trust in God and treat people (whom Jesus died for) with lack of concern? A faith that doesn't care about others will not save.

This was Jesus' whole point in telling the story about the man we call the Good Samaritan. When the lawyer asked, "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10 29), Jesus told him about a priest and a Levite, who did not care enough to help an injured man. He then told them of a Samaritan, despised by all "good Jews," who cared enough to stop and help. "Who is my neighbor" was clear: the man who showed mercy and compassion was the real neighbor in the story. Also, the one who showed mercy and compassion was the one with the real faith.

This compassion is more than warm regards for others. It is a love that acts on behalf of people, as James describes. It is "faith, working in love" (Gal. 5:6) and it is obedient to Jesus, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). The feelings we have for others will cause us to act for their good in all situations, such as the Good Samaritan did.

Too many believers want their faith to be expressed in worship or in finding and obeying the smaller commands of God. When the Pharisees did this, Jesus confronted them by saying, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others" (Matt. 23:23). Jesus condemned them for failing to show mercy, to care enough about people to be just, to show real faith. Real faith is built on love for God and compassion for other people. Don't fool yourself into thinking your worship or your prayers will make up for a loveless faith. It won't.

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 8

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; N. Esenowo; M. de la Garza; E. Lerma*

Scripture: *Ps. 23*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Hipp; Z. Watkins*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *E. Lerma*

After Greeter: *M. Weed; E. Castillo*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Hernandez*
 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
 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:

Psalm 50

PM Sermon:

"Out of the mouth of lions" (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 4: **J. Guillen**

May 11: **R. Baltierra Jr.**

May 18: **T. Mayces**

FOR THE RECORD

May 1

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 37
 Sunday AM Worship 56
 Sunday PM Worship 31
 Wednesday Bible Study 32
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,379.00**

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