

# 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)

## What Do We Choose From A Church? (2)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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How Israel Fell From Glory (36)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
“I Am Convinced....”

As we noted last week, the institution of the church was solely to worship God and learn more of His blessed will (Isa. 2:3, cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4). Nothing is mentioned within the Scriptures concerning church “*programs*,” which many today have put so much attention on. Hence, our focus in choosing a church should be whether they are worshiping God correctly (Jn. 4:24) and preaching the pure word of God (1 Pet. 4:11; 2 Tim. 3:16, cf. Pr. 30:6). Sadly, many are led by a “**what does the church have to offer me**” mentality, and with that, if a church doesn’t have the right number, programs, or facilities, then regardless of preaching God’s truth, people find what suits their interests and desires. Interestingly, we never see this kind of behavior in the First Century.

What looking for a church has become is more like searching for a restaurant to eat at. We search for the one that will meet our wants and desires, namely our palate. But interestingly, God warned of this in His word, that instead of desiring a church for the right reasons, people would look for a church for the wrong reasons. This is the point of 2 Timothy 4:1-4. Paul begins by emphasizing what matters to God most - “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-*

*suffering and doctrine*” (v.2). The preaching of God’s word is what defines a true church, nothing else should matter, yet we live in a world where numbers, programs, and facilities outweigh the import of God and the preaching of His word. Why? As Paul continued, “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables*” (vs. 3-4). Paul noted that there would come a time when the preaching of God’s true will would simply be not enough, rather people would look for something else, and the something else is self-gratification and pleasure.

Therefore, many will compromise truth for other things less important (cf. Ex. 23:2). What a sad day it will be when many who chose church for the wrong reasons will be exposed on the Day of Judgment. Instead of looking for a church and leadership that were committed to God and truth, many will be condemned because they went with a church that met their emotional needs. But much to their chagrin, God isn’t interested in building up one’s feelings, rather He is interested in building up your intellect (Acts 20:32). May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (36)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The family home devotional, hosted by Sisters Harris and Smith, will be on April 21st at Villas of Leon Valley party room (7101 Huebner Rd) at 7:00 pm. The menu is healthy potluck.

A volunteer is need to be in charge of services during the month of May. See one of the elders if you can serve in this capacity.

Our Gospel Meeting with Foy Forehand will be April 30-May 3.

Please invite friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to this upcoming event. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer for providing meals for Bro. Forehand and his wife while they are here.

The ladies Bible class and the Men's Training Class will meet at 4:00 pm on April 23. The ladies are studying lesson 7 in the book, *God's Makeover Plan*.

The monthly elders, deacons, and preacher meeting is today at 4:00 p.m.

The fifth Sunday fellowship will be on April 30 after evening services. The menu is sandwiches, chips, and dips.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional scheduled for the month of May will be announced at a later time.

### YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional, hosted by Carolyn Harris, will be April 28. More details to follow.

### AREA NEWS

See the bulletin board in the foyer for events in our area.

Why was God so optimistic in chapter 54? As chapter 52:13 - 53:12 pointed out, God's "suffering" servant, the prophecy of the coming Christ, he would set in order the spiritual perfunctory of Israel, leading to a worldwide blessing (54:3,5). Hence, Israel was likened unto a barren woman, one that didn't contribute children to society (54:1). This meant that she didn't bring any blessings to society as God desired (cf. Ps. 127:3-5), but through the work and life of Christ, she and the entire world would be restored through the "*adoption of children*" (Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:15-16; Gal. 4:1-6).

Although Israel had been rejected and punished by God (54:6-8), God foreseeing the great plan of redemption (through Christ), had mercy on Israel and showed His lovingkindness. Just as he showed kindness during the days of Noah, promising never to destroy the earth again (54:9); likewise, God showed kindness to His people by restoring Jerusalem's grandeur (54:11-17). But what was God's focus on? "*In righteousness shall you be established...*" (v. 14a). This was the prophecy of what Christ would come to do - to live righteously. With true righteousness established, there was no enemy or weapon that would destroy "spiritual" Israel and Jerusalem (cf. Rom.

9-11). This is why during Christ's arrest and unlawful court proceedings and eventual condemnation, there was no enemy, nor weapon that overcame him, rather, in the end He overcame them all.

This is why in chapter 55, God uses concepts of nature to teach His people about desiring Him. If only through God could His people live righteously, instead of desiring fleeting things of life, God encouraged them to seek the only item that was eternal - his blessed will (vs. 1-2). This is why God challenged His people to seek him and forsake their ways, and in doing so, God would pardon them (vs. 3-7). He wanted them to realize that their only way to survive was to make God's thoughts their thoughts, for His paths were better (vs. 8-9). Then God equated his words to rain and snow (v.10), meaning, His word gives life to the earth through the nourishment of water; likewise, God's word would give nourishment to those that heard it and applied it to their lives (vs. 11-12). With this blessing and spiritual nourishment, then joy and peace would proceed (vs. 12-13). God reminded them that His will was their only salvation through trials of life. 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) and given the hope of eternal life (Acts 2:38).

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

### "I Am Convinced..."

"For this reason I also suffer these things, but am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day" (2 Tim. 1;12). Paul wrote these words toward the end of along life in the service of God. In his early years he was a faithful Pharisee of the Hews (Phil 3:5) and after his conversion he served for decades as a missionary in the cause of Christ. As he looked to the end of his life, the great apostle expressed his confidence in God that his Savior and Lord would save him.

Our world today needs this sort of conviction. Modern society seems confused and without direction with values wavering and changing almost daily. People take sides in court cases. People make excuses in talk shows by the dozen. People seek escape in rationalizations. They assert their "rights", but fail to acknowledge their "responsibilities". Paul had no trouble with that. Early on he had decided to commit his life to Jesus and follow his Lord. At the end of life Paul enjoyed a confidence often missing in people today. He was convinced that God would save him after all. We too can gain the same confidence by reminding ourselves of some basic truths.

Jesus told his disciples, "Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (Jn. 4:35). There has never been a greater need for laborers in the Lord's field! Are YOU working in his harvest field saving lost souls?

**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

## DEACONS

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1 Tim. 3: 7-12)

*Brother Raul Baltierra*

(210) 843-9730

*Brother Bill Dorries*

(210) 253-0173

## GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

*Brother Gabriel Rodriguez*

(210) 315-4453



## APRIL 16

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Communion Leader: *R. Baltierra*  
 Lord's Supper Servers: *J. Guillen; E. Castillo; R. Baltierra Jr.; G. Rodriguez*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:44-49*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *D. Mathis*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*  
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper: *Z. Watkins; E. Hipp*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

After Greeter: *S. Amos*  
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 In Charge of Invitation: *E. Hipp*

### REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes  
 Joe Guillen  
 Ina Dial  
 David and Elijah Sudhoff  
 Caral O'Banon  
 Helen Gross (aunt of sister Sarah)  
 Sam Amos (awaiting surgery)  
 Parents of David Lyssy  
 Sandra Welch  
 Lavender Nelson  
 Tita Cortez (sister of Sam Ramirez)  
 Dolly Gribble  
 E. Hipp

### BATTLING CANCER:

Johna Dorries      Abigail Reyes  
 Graciola Anderson      Sonny Cary  
 Arturo Hernandez  
 Renalto (brother-in-law of Joe Guillen)

### SHUT-INS:

Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest  
 Sarah Cannon

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES APRIL

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*White*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Holmes*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Open*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*Open*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*B. Dorries*

AM Theme:

**The Hall of Fame:**

*A Study of Hebrews 11*

PM Theme:

**God's Love For His Church:**

*A Study of the Song of Solomon*

**AM Sermon:**

*Judges, Kings, and Prophets (3)*

**PM Sermon:**

*Fifth Song (1)*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**April 19:** *E. Hipp*

**May 3:** *R. Baltierra Jr.*

**May 10:** *T. Mayces*

## FOR THE RECORD

### APRIL 9/12

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      38  
 Sunday AM Worship      59  
 Sunday PM Worship      29  
 Wednesday Bible Study      37  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,797.35**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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