

# 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? (3)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

## Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (37)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
God's Word Is Still Powerful!

Here is an interesting passage in connection with this written series. Jesus told the church in Sardis, “*I know your works. You have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead*” (Rev. 3:1). What a remarkable statement to a congregation, who were clearly doing things, but were actually unrecognizable to God. And what was the problem? Jesus said, “*...I have not found your works perfect before God*” (3:2b). The word “*perfect*” in this passage is the Greek word *pleroo* and is defined as to fulfill/accomplish the will of God. But in what respect? In living morally and ethically before God (3:4). So in other words, while they were engaged in many works, making a name for themselves, their lives were corrupt before God; thus making their works null and void.

Now, a corruption of lives stems first, from a lack of proper teaching and instruction; hence, the idea of not being perfect. This means, while a church can be engaged in many ostensible works, its members can be so corrupt that none of their works are taken into account by God. In reality, God is actually “*blotting their name from the book of life*” (Rev. 3:5).

Walking morally and ethically before God is much more than being kind and

respectful to all men, it is accomplishing everything the nature of God demands socially and spiritually. In other words, it means fulfilling everything Christ's law commands (Jas. 2:10). This would include all aspects of sin as mentioned in Romans 1:22-32; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:26-32; and Colossians 3:5-9. So what this means is, it doesn't matter if you feed the poor, but are feeding your mind evil and wickedness. It doesn't matter if you are in charge of organizing youth activities, but are involved in sinful social activities, such as dancing, drinking, and sexual immorality. It doesn't matter if you are helping teach Bible classes, but are teaching others to sin through your bad influence. It doesn't matter if you are in charge of worship, but aren't charge of your own life. It doesn't matter if we host a Men's Day, Ladies' Day, Youth Day lectureship, gospel meeting, and congregational seminar, but the congregation, including its leadership aren't living holy lives. It doesn't matter if the congregation is involved in a great community outreach, when most of its members aren't studying and applying the word of God to their lives. The bottom line is, we may have a reputation of doing something, but in reality, we are dead and unrecognizable before God. May God be praised!

# How Israel Fell From Glory (37)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

A volunteer is needed 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 begin next Sunday (April 30) and run through Wednesday (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 today at 4:00 pm on. The ladies are studying lesson 7 in the book, God's Makeover Plan.

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 hosted by sister Neaves in the annex building, May 5, at 7:00 pm. All youth are invited to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

Sister Harris rescheduled the young adult devotional for the month of May. More details to follow.

### AREA NEWS

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

The uniqueness of the Sabbath Day for Israel was a day of rest (Ex. 20:10-11), but mainly (during that rest) it was used to remember God and His will (cf. Lev. 23:3). This is why a discussion of the Sabbath Day is mentioned in chapter 56:1-8. God desired that His people remember Him and His will throughout their lives (56:1), so that "...he (Israel) could keep his hand from doing evil" (56:2c). Through constant remembrance concerning whose you are and His will is for you, people would be cognizant of their social and spiritual expectations. And unto those who continued to observe the Sabbath Day faithfully (its meaning and purpose), God would bless them. But for those who chose not to honor the Sabbath Day, God would curse and destroy them.

And who were those responsible for showcasing God's way and influencing His people in the way they should go? God's leaders. This is why in chapter 56:9-57:13, the next discussion involves defectors of the Sabbath Day, leading to a rebellion against God and His will. These included "watchmen and shepherds," who were described as "blind, dumb dogs, lazy, greedy, ignorant, and foolish" (56:10-11). What was the end result of their behavior? "...righteousness

*perishes and no man lays it heart"* (57:1a). In other words, through the efforts of defunct leaders, who walk in their own uprightness (57:2), they replaced the true worship of God with idolatry and its deleterious practices (57:3-11). And these self-deluded works they engaged in, God said of them, "*I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works; for they shall not profit thee*" (57:12). Their choices of life would come back to destroy them, because they put their trust in themselves and their idols, and not in God (57:13).

But here is the mercy and loving kindness of God demonstrated as He attempted to plead with His leaders to repent of their ways and seek Him, removing the stumbling block from their path (57:14). God ultimately desired from them a "*humble and contrite (attitude), to revive the spirit of the humble and heart of the contrite ones*" (57:15b). God promised that if His leaders changed "*He would not contend with them always, because they were made in His image*" (57:16). The only thing God detested was their covetousness of the people, but if they changed God would heal them and bring back peace to the land. God reminded them that without Him they would have no peace (57:12). **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

### God's Word Is Still Powerful

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). Paul was confident because he trusted in the power of God's word. he saw the word as "living and active and sharper than a two edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). For Paul the word of God was more than a rule book, it was God's message of good news and salvation. That word had power.

The word of God is still powerful. It is still alive and still active. The gospel message of salvation still has power to save those who believe. Today, the "implanted word...is still able to save your souls" (James 1:21). That word is imperishable (1 Pet. 1:23) and will never fade away in glory or power (1 Pet. 1:25). I am convinced of this great truth.

This gives us a confidence the world cannot have apart from God. It gives us a stable foundation that never changes. While the world debates right and wrong. it allows us to stand firmly on God's word, unworried that values have changed. As the world struggles to understand compassion, commitment, personal responsibility, and so on, we stand confident guided by an unchanging and ever powerful word.

We stand on this word, not what others say about the message. Too many are caught up in what someone says the Bible teaches and not in the actual teaching of the scriptures. Paul was convinced because his faith was in Jesus, not in what people said about Jesus. The word is our strength, not what someone else says we should think or believe.

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto his against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).  
**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

**CALLED TO SERVE**  
*Called To Serve*

**APRIL 23**

**AM WORSHIP**

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*  
 Communion Leader: *R. Baltierra*  
 Lord's Supper Servers: *D. Mathis; E. Hipp; T. Mayces; A. Jacob*

Scripture: *Mark 15:33-39*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

**PM WORSHIP**

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *S. Amos; M. de la Garza*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *E & K Hipp*  
 Greeter/Usher: *B. Dorries*  
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 In Charge of Invitation: *W. Holmes*

**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 MAY**

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*The Men*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Neaves*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*Open*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry  
 room  
*Open*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*Open*

AM Theme:

**The Hall of Fame:**

*Crown of Glory: The King of My Life*

PM Theme:

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

*A Study of the Song of Solomon*

**AM Sermon:**

*Introduction*

**PM Sermon:**

*Fifth Song (2)*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL**

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

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

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

**FOR THE RECORD**

**APRIL 16/19**

**Attendance:**

Sunday Bible Study      40  
 Sunday AM Worship      66  
 Sunday PM Worship      23  
 Wednesday Bible Study      40  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$2,458.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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