

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)

One Body and Faith

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Despite being added to the “*church of Christ*” after obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38-41,47; 1 Cor. 12:12-13) as we studied last week, doesn’t mean a thing if the church isn’t teaching and preaching the truth of God’s word (cf. Isa. 2:2-3; Jn. 17:17; 2 Tim. 4:2). There are many folks who think that by simply going to a building where the moniker “church of Christ” is used is all that is needed to ensure salvation. This couldn’t be farther from the truth. Paul said in Ephesians 4:1-5 that the church of Christ was to “*endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace*” (v. 3). In other words, as Paul told the Corinthian church, “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and judgment*” (1 Cor. 1:10). This is why, going back to the book of Ephesians, Paul said, “*There is one body...one faith...*” (vs. 4-5).

What this all means is, we must not only worship with a congregation that possesses the true moniker, but more importantly, we must worship with a congregation that is teaching the “*one faith*.” This means that everything the leadership instructs is backed by book, chapter, and verse, rightly interpreted

and understood (Col. 3:17, cf. Eph. 5:17). And this is the problem with many churches of Christ. While the moniker is right, the doctrine is skewed. This is why Paul said in 2 Corinthians 11:26-28 that what concerned him most was the daily care of all the churches, who some were being overturned by “*false brethren*” (e.g., 2 Pet. 1:3).

Sadly, there are many congregations in today’s world who are teaching destructive doctrines, that many who don’t know any better, are taken captive because of their willful ignorance due to their lack of study and reflection on God’s word (2 Tim. 4:3-4, cf. Acts 17:11). This is why members of the Lord’s church must always be alert, awake, and studied to make sure what any given leadership proclaims from God’s word is sound and truthful. It does no one any good just to go to a church because it has the “right” name, but its teachings are against the will of God. This is why the unity of the body and doctrine are so important to God. The Bible doesn’t teach various doctrines, or else it wouldn’t teach that we all need to speak the same thing. The Bible teaches one faith (i.e., system of belief) and its leaders must be people that proclaim this one faith. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (34)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by Pauline White, will be next Sunday, April 9, after the morning service. The menu is healthy potluck.

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. We also need volunteers for hosting a youth devotional, fellowship luncheon, and preparing communion for May.

The elders have selected to do a **Spring Gospel Meeting** for April 30-May 3. They have invited Brother Foy Forehand from Hamilton, TX to conduct our meeting. 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.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for April 7 at the home of the Rodriguez at 7:00 pm. All our young people are expected to come and fellowship together.

Our young people are invited to the Southeast congregation (5860 US Highway 87 E, 78222) on Saturday, April 8, from 10 am - 3 pm for their Science or Science Fiction discussion. Let's make plans to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

News to come later for their next upcoming event.

AREA NEWS

See the bulletin board in the foyer

In the midst of God's talk concerning the physical restoration of Israel in posterity, God gave a messianic prophecy concerning the spiritual restoration of Israel, and eventually all men. This prophecy begins in chapter 52:13 - 53:12.

God begins with this statement: "*Behold, my servant shall prosper, and he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high*" (52:13). There was a special servant on the horizon, that through his efforts he would be highly recognized by God and the world. Yet, he would achieve recognition, not through physical appearance or exploits as the world usually focuses upon, rather he would achieve recognition by something less conspicuous - his ability to overcome the world's problems. And therefore, we see the reason why this message was given at this juncture. Israel was suffering for their sins and mistakes, but despite their woes and problems, God desired His people, namely the innocent taken by the majority's wrong actions (Ex. 23:2), to continue to remain faithful despite the ominous circumstances.

In chapter 53 the focus is put on the **character** of this servant rather than his physical appearance (cf. 52:14-15). It doesn't take us long to figure out that these

passages refer to Jesus Christ. Christ is the servant of God whose "*visage was marred*" and "*who was a root out of a dry ground and there was no beauty that we should desire him*" (53:2, cf. Matt. 26:56). This certainly referring to his judgment and crucifixion. But the connection is, as Israel become marred through her choices of sin, likewise, Jesus resembled a fallen Israel, marred by sin and its consequences (2 Cor. 5:21). Hence, he was "*rejected, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with griefs*" (53:3), all symbolic of what Israel was experiencing.

But unlike Israel who experienced these things because of her disobedience, Christ experienced them because of his obedience to God. In other words, it is always good to suffer for doing what is right than wrong (1 Pet. 3:13-14; 4:14-16). And this is what Jesus experienced, he suffered consequences of for right conduct (1 Pet. 4:1), and in so doing, he demonstrated God's expectations of life and how we can conquer them. Since Israel symbolized sin, Christ would symbolize victory over sin, but not simply experiencing the pains of sins, but conquering sin through the life of righteousness he choose. 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

Hot, Cold, Or Lukewarm? (4)

Peter instructed that unto faith these things should be added: "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall (2 Pet. 1:5-10). To this end elders, evangelists, teachers were selected in the church (Eph. 4:11-15).

Under the oversight of elders, this growth is to be stimulated by example, teaching, exhortation, warning, discipline, prayer (Heb. 13:7,17).

How do we rate in this area? Are we hot, cold, or merely lukewarm?

The living example of Christianity is a powerful statement of truth (2 Cor. 3:12), persuader of men (1 Pet. 3:1,2), and silencer of critics (1 Pet. 2:11,15).

The gospel of Christ has had such impact upon the world because Jesus did what he claimed to be. He began both to do, and to teach (Acts 1:1).

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 2

AM WORSHIP

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

Scripture: *Romans 5:6-11*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *E. Castillo*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Watkins; B. Dorries*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*
 Greeter/Usher: *Z. Watkins*
 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 (sister-in-law of Billie Dorries)
 Lavender Nelson
 Tita Cortez (sister of Sam Ramirez)
 Dolly Gribble (hurt back)

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; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

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

PM Sermon:

Fourth Song (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

April 5: *N. Esenowo*

April 12: *M. de la Garza*

April 19: *E. Hipp*

FOR THE RECORD

MARCH 26/29

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 37
 Sunday AM Worship 57
 Sunday PM Worship 38
 Wednesday Bible Study 37
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,418.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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