

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? (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Does the church have programs? Will the church meet my social needs? How large is the church and does it have adequate facilities? These are popular questions and thoughts that help determine whether a church is suitable for someone. Certainly these questions possess some kind of merit, but the recent phenomena of “*church programs, social events, size of the church, and adequate facilities*” has erased the **true purpose of the church**.

First, take the example of the Old Testament and the concept of church. The purpose of Israelite worship and “church” (people) gathering was solely to worship the Lord through praise and sacrifice (2 Chron. 2:4-6; 7:4-10). Although there was a focus on the facilities (2 Chron. 3-4), the facilities were geared toward the adoration of God. And what went on inside the facilities, the focus was on acts of worship directed to God (2 Chron. 6:12-42). And what about the children? Anytime we see children mentioned, it is with the adults who gathered to worship God by praising God or listening to God’s word proclaimed (Neh. 8:1-3,5-6; Ezra 10:1). Israel’s entire worship experience was about God and Him alone, and no where do we see the focus put on anything else. *Second*, consider the words of the Lord to Solomon after the temple had been established: “*For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. And as for thee, if you will walk before me, as David thy father walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and shall observe my*

statutes, and my judgments; then will I establish the throne of thy kingdom....” (2 Chron. 7:16-17). The message was clear. God’s name and words were the sole intent in gatherings and worship.

Third, the lack of focus put on people’s wants and desires within worship speaks volumes. The temple and worship had nothing to do with the people, but everything to do with God. Now, did this mean that God is so shallow that He demands worship from His creatures? Of course not. While worship is about God, gatherings and worship was to help people, *first*, remember their God, and *second*, remember their commitment to Him. In other words, God demanded worship, not for His sake, but for the sake of the people, to remember and be reminded of their duty toward their Maker.

Fourth, the ultimate focus on worship was placed on God’s word - reading, meditating, and living it out. It was then the responsibility of parents to teach their children the ways of God (Deut. 6:7; Pr. 22:6). Parents, not youth programs, nor any type of social events, was responsible in instructing children. Children grew up in their home and their parents were the sole guardians of their young minds.

We can see from an OT perspective that worship was solely about God, honoring Him and studying His blessed will. So why has worship and the search for a church been transformed to my wants and desires? The easy answer is, because many don’t know the real and true purpose of church and worship. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (35)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after the morning service. All visitors are invited to enjoy the meal and fellowship with us.

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.

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 will be on April 16 at 4:00 p.m.

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*.

YOUTH

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

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.

Chapter 53, the great Messianic prophecy concerning the death of Christ, should be evaluated in light of the context. The context deals with the nation of Israel who had been conquered repeatedly by sin. Now, since sin is a choice of being unfaithful to God's commandments (1 Jn. 3:4), Israel allowed herself to be dominated by sin by choosing the pleasures of sin rather than conquering it (cf. Heb. 11:26).

So here was the point of chapter 53. While Israel was often influenced by pleasure and appearances of sin (i.e., pleasures of idolatry), the coming Christ, who possessed no pleasurable outward features (vs. 1-2), would demonstrate that what he accomplished was done solely with *mental strength* and *clarity* (cf. Lk. 2:40,52; 22:42-43).

The description of Christ's life here, resembled his outward features - nothing to glee over, because there was nothing from his life seen as pleasurable (v.3). Now, what led to this? When Christ arrived on the scene at age 30, and after dominating sin (Matt. 4:1-11), he quickly began preaching repentance and that the kingdom of God was at hand (Matt. 4:17). His message resonated with many people, but with the Jews, namely, the

religious elite (priests), it was taken as an affront to their established man-made laws (Matt. 6:1-7; 23). As Jesus preached and became more bold in his speech to the Jewish religious leaders, their envy and jealousy of him (Matt. 27:18; Mrk. 15:10), led him to be mistreated and eventually put to death.

So the image was clear. Nothing had changed for the nation of Israel, namely the religious priests, who had practiced a religion to "*be seen of all men*" (Matt. 6:1,5). They were focused on the external, while Jesus' message pricked the internal hearts of man - his mind and emotions (Matt. 7:28-29). But the response he received from those in authority was hatred, spite, and revenge. These religious priests then symbolized the effects of living a righteous life - suffering and hardships. Paul said, "*Yea, all who will live godly in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution*" (2 Tim. 3:12). And with Christ, there was no exception. He suffered from the effects of living and preaching a righteous life. Hence, in chapter 53: 4ff, the prophecy was concerning the stance Jesus took in life. And by dominating his response to the effects of sin, he then demonstrated the impotence of sin. 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? (5)

Throughout the ages, the world has had plenty of talkers; it has had few doers! If Christianity is to be real to the world, we must personify it to the world as Christ personified God to us (Heb. 1:3; John 14:8-9).

He (Christ) personified God's traits: love, justice, mercy, forgiveness - How much of this do men see in us - are they able to look at our traits and see Christ Personified?

While we may not miraculously relieve them, what are we doing for the poor (Rom. 15:26), widows and orphans (James 1:27), the sick (Matt. 25:35-36)?

Are we known as teachers of the Gospel to the lost, or as self righteous judges of others?

The work God planned for the church is at once the most challenging, the most rewarding, the most important, the most satisfying which can possibly be done by man. There is a place in that work for all Christians, and yet we can look on all sides and see the "Lukewarm" brothers and sisters. Ask your self this question, "How do we compare with the Laodiceans - are we of this church, Hot, Cold, Or Simply Lukewarm"?

The Laodiceans were told, "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Re. 3:16-17).

It's a serious thing to be rejected by God. We encourage each one consider these things and make any changes in life in order to be in the right relationship with him.

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 9

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Communion Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *N. Esenowo; A. Maldonado; M. de la Garza; S. Amos*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:10-12*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; R. Baltierra*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 In Charge of Invitation: *G. Rodriguez*

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 (recovering from surgery)
 E. Hipp (recovering from knee surg.)

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 (2)

PM Sermon:

Fourth Song (3)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

April 5: *N. Esenowo*

April 12: *M. de la Garza*

April 19: *E. Hipp*

FOR THE RECORD

APRIL 2/5

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 35
 Sunday AM Worship 39
 Sunday PM Worship 37
 Wednesday Bible Study 35
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,685.15**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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