

# 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)

## HELPING THE POOR AND NEEDY (1)

### Inside This Issue:

The Nature and Efficacy of Prayer (9)

*Shepherd's Corner:*  
Is It Possible To Find Peace With God

I've decided to tackle an issue that many “religious people” are vociferous about, even to the point of **guilty others** if it is not done. This issue is about helping the needy and poor. The persons and passages that are often brought forth to prove there case are Moses' commandments to the nation of Israel concerning helping the poor and needy (Deut. 15:7,9,11; 24:14), Jesus' and the Apostles' examples of helping the poor and needy (cf. Mrk. 5:30-44; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-15; Acts 3:11-12) and Jesus' and the Apostles' words in helping the poor and needy (Matt. 25:31-46; Jas. 1:27; 1 Jn. 3:16-18).

Certainly there is no dispute over the commandment to help those who are poor and in need, and serve them as did Jesus, the Apostles, and the early church (cf. Mrk. 9:33-37; Acts 4:32-37), but upon further investigation there are several things to consider before we extend help. First, what constituents true poverty and need? Second, what does the Bible say about personal responsibility during times of poverty and need? Third, what role does the family play during these times? And fourth, what is the ultimate role of the church with regard to the poor and needy?

In my humble opinion, for too long, the public, as well as “religious people”, have used the commandment of service and benevolence for personal gain and advantage (i.e., *welfare system*). People come to expect that any and all religious institutions **MUST** help others in times of poverty and need, and if not, then that religious institution is not of God. While certainly we are here to help each

other when need is present, this series will *expose* how the **act of benevolence** has been taken *advantage of*.

Let's begin with what constituents true poverty and need. The terms “*poverty*” and “*need*” in the context of the religious world are loosely used today to mean, “Whenever I need something then the church (*religious organization*) is supposed to help me!” But as one looks into the Scriptures to identify the poor and needy, another picture emerges. The poor and needy of ancient times was quite different from the poor and needy in modern times. Ancient man lived in a society that was mostly nomadic and transient, meaning due to their “shifting circumstances” there was a great divide between those that had means and those that did not (cf. Pr. 22:2). There were no businesses or governments established to help others, rather it was up to individuals and families to provide for their own. Therefore, great fortune was often acquired through hard work and time and chance (Pr. 10:4), and for others, due to unfortunate circumstances (i.e., loss of loved ones or some debilitating physical issue), this led to poverty and need (Lev. 25:35; 2 Sam. 9; 2 Kgs. 4:1-7; Acts 3:1-3). When someone was met with unfortunate circumstances, then it was the duty of those who had means to care for those had need, but was this help to last forever and did the poor have an expectation from God? As we will see next week, poverty and need wasn't supposed to be a handicap, rather it was to propel people to do better in their lives so that they could eventually help themselves. May God be praised!

# THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (9)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

A brother in Christ is needed to be in charge of services during the month of September. See one of the elders is you can serve in this way.

The Ladies' Bible Class and the Men's Training Class will be at 4:00 today. The ladies are studying Lesson 10 and the men will be studying Lesson 3 by Sam Amos.

The Ladies Get-together will be on September 23, while the men's breakfast will be on September 30. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

### YOUTH

The youth will be singing at a retirement home in Shaven Park next Sunday, September 10 at 3:00 pm. See Raul or Rosie for more details.

The young adult and youth devotional, hosted by Sister Harris will be on September 29th. More details to follow later.

### YOUNG ADULT

The young adult and youth devotional, hosted by Sister Harris will be on September 29th. More details to follow later.

### AREA NEWS

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

Let's look at what the disciples asked Jesus in Luke 11:1, "*Lord, teach us to pray.*" From the parallel account found in Matthew 6:5-15, there are several things to note before we look at the model prayer. In Matthew 6:5-6, Jesus said that prayer is supposed to be an **individual** and **secret thing**, and not to be used for one's own glory, showiness, or recognition. Christ commanded when we pray to "*enter into your closet, shut your door, and pray to the Father in secret,*" and then God will "*reward you openly.*"

The word "*reward*" comes from the Greek word *didomi* and is defined as to supply and furnish what is necessary, and the word "*openly*" is the Greek word *phaneros* and is defined as to shine or cause to appear; recognized or be known. So putting these meanings together, prayer is an individual and secret act that supplies me with being noticed. But in what sense? Prayer is for building one on the inside, which will then be displayed on the outside. When one has a strong "private" prayer life, this will be noticed in what they do, not what they say. This is why in Matthew 6:7, Jesus says, "*When you pray, do not use vain repetitions, as the heathens do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*"

The purpose of prayer is not to quote the same words over again, sounding verbose, rather prayer is an intimate affair where one thoughtfully communicates to God. But what should those thoughts

look like? As we study together the model prayer, the thoughts given are one of **personal responsibility** to God. In other words, what are my expectations to God? Therefore, prayer has a greater value than just saying something, it's supposed to prick us to do things the Lord requires of us. This is further validated in Matthew 6:8, where Jesus said that prayer isn't a practice where we express need and help, because God knows what you need, even before you ask him.

So in other words, God has already provided you with the necessary things of life; therefore, prayer is for another purpose.

The other purpose is spiritual in nature. This is what God has always been about. God never promised that our physical lives would be taken care of completely, rather He anticipated that we would experience difficult moments of life (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12; Rev. 2:10). And when those moments come, we could be ready to go through them with God's word leading and guiding us, and even if we lost our lives in the process, then we would be better off (Phil. 1:21).

This is why the chapter preceding Luke 11 speaks of the limited commission of spreading God's word and its power to help people's spiritual needs. And when Jesus visited Martha and Mary, Mary chose the better part in sitting at the feet of Jesus to hear his words (Lk. 10:38-42). So the importance of listening to God's word and doing it is what God cares about. May God be praised!

**Bro. G. Rodriguez**



## What Must I Do?

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

### It Is Possible To Find Peace With God

Just as peace with others must be based on peace with self, so peace within depends on our being with peace with God. That is where it must begin. Until we can find peace with God, we cannot ever be at peace with others or ourselves. Wise King Solomon defined man's purpose: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). Sin is the cause of strife and wars, both between men and within man. The magnitude of the problem is seen when we realize, "All have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). The way to bring peace is to get rid of sin, and only Jesus Christ can do that. When man sinned in Eden (Gen. 3) and separated himself from God (Isa. 5:1-2), God purposed to save man by sending "His only begotten Son" to die for man (Jn. 3:16).

Before the birth of Jesus, Joseph was told "Thou shalt call his name Jesus: for it is he that shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). The apostle Peter said of Jesus later, "In none other is there salvation" (Acts 4:12). Sin separated us from God (Isa. 59:1-2), and Jesus stated plainly His purpose on earth: "The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10). Separated from God by our sins, we needed to be "reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20). Jesus died at Calvary, for us, in order to "make peace by the blood of his cross...yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death" (Col. 1:20-22).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jno. 3:16).

# 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



## August 27

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*  
 Communion Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper Servers: *D. Mathis; A. Campbell; Z. Watkins; N. Esenowo*

Scripture: *Matthew 26:26-29*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *E. Castillo*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *E. Hipp*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *R. Trevino; M. de la Garza*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *T. Mayces*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*  
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*  
 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  
 Sam Amos *(awaiting surgery)*  
 Parents of David Lyssy  
 Sandra Welch  
 Lavender Nelson  
 Tita Cortez *(sister of Sam Ramirez)*  
 Dolly Gribble *(back)*  
 Sympathies extended to the Trevino family in their time of grief

### BATTLING CANCER:

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

### SHUT-INS:

Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest  
 Sarah Cannon

### TRAVELING:

Art Jacob *(NM, AZ)*

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES SEPTEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Quintero Family*  
 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:

The Canon of Scripture:  
*Which Books Are Inspired of God?*

### AM Sermon:

*King David (4)*

### PM Sermon:

*Congregational Singing*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

**August 16:** *A. Maldonado*

**August 23:** *R. Baltierra*

**August 30:** *D. Mathis*

## FOR THE RECORD

### AUGUST 20/23

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      35  
 Sunday AM Worship      46  
 Sunday PM Worship      38  
 Wednesday Bible Study      29  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,687.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA *(Adult Bible class)*

## SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*San Antonio, TX 78230*

**(210) 696-5532**

**Fax: (210) 696-5181**

**Church email Address:**

**[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