

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)

A Study in Philemon (6)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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Here is another fact with regard to the master/servant relationship mentioned in the Old Testament. It is found in Deuteronomy 15. God commanded his people, saying, *“If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth...For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land”* (vs. 7-8). God recognized the responsibility of those with means in helping the poor; therefore, when someone poor sold themselves for work and/or sustenance (v.12), after seven years, the Lord commanded a release (vs.1-2). With regard to those that sold themselves the Lord commanded: *“And when you send out him that is free, you will not let him go away empty: you will furnish him liberally out of your flocks, floor, winepress: of which the Lord thy God has blessed you with”* (vss. 13-14). But if after the seven years of release was upon them and the servant (both male and female) decided to stay because they loved their master, the servant would *“take an aul and*



thrust it through his ear and he would be his master's servant forever” (vs. 16-17).

What all of this shows is, the great concern masters were to naturally have for their servants. The impetus for this was, just as God, their master, provided for them, likewise, they should do the same for each other. Hence, this relationship wasn't as many believe, a relationship of abuse and taking advantage of another, rather it was where everyone took care of each other, serving one another. And this same message continued in the New Testament, when Jesus addressed a request from James and John, who said, *“Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory”* (Mrk. 10:37). Jesus then said unto them, *“...but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all”* (Mrk. 10:43-44). Jesus recognized that our duty in life is not to be served and garner the spotlight, rather our duty is to serve each other. And this is exactly the message of the Old Testament, that despite your position, power, and/or wealth our task is to make sure we help each other in a positive manner. Therefore, the master/servant relationship was just this. It wasn't a relationship of dominate power and authority, it was a relationship where we used our positions of life to help those less fortunate than us. May God be praised!

THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (1)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

We thank everyone who had a part in the success of our Youth Day. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Our fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. Everyone, especially our visitors, are invited to stay.

The monthly elders, deacons, and preacher meeting will be on June 18 at 4:00 pm.

The family home devotional, hosted by Carolyn Harris, will be at 11:00 am on June 24th at Raymond Rimkus Park in Leon Valley (6440 Evers Rd). A sign-up sheet for food is in the foyer.

Volunteers are needed in July to host young adult devotional. See one of the elders if you can serve in this capacity.

The Sunny Glen children's home will be here June 18-21 to pick up requested supplies: **Pastas/ Noodles and Floor Cleaners**. As before, you can either buy these items yourself and place them in the library or give a check to one of our elders so they can purchase these items in bulk. Thank you.

YOUTH

There will be no June devotional because of our Youth Day.

YOUNG ADULT

The next young adult devotional will be hosted the Hipps on June 23. Bring side dishes to go with hamburgers/turkey burgers.

AREA NEWS

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

In this new written series, we will be discussing and contemplating the nature and efficacy (purpose) of prayer. We will do this by addressing the epochs of Biblical history and see how prayer applied to each. The import for this discussion is the many misconceptions people have today concerning the subject of prayer. We hope at the end of this study many will avoid *emotionalism*, *superstition*, and *presuppositions* and allow logical and rational thoughts to guide their thoughts as they put to practice this important subject.

There is no doubt that the subject of prayer was and is an important practice to God's people, from the time of Adam to Christ. But as we begin our journey in this subject, we would do well to dissect this subject with great critical thinking skills. In other words, serious thought and meditation, connecting dots (rationalization), and allowing the chips where they may fall (common sense) needs to be practiced if we are to understand this subject clearly. Many, unfortunately, believe that this subject is cut and dry, but as we dig deeper into the Scriptures, another layer of understanding will come forth, which I know will help us to look at this subject with more clarity. This is why it's always in our best interest to do an independent study on any given subject to make sure we are doing, saying, and practicing things consistent with what the Bible teaches. And with regard to the subject of prayer, we should never do or say anything that gives off a false impression, or for that matter, teaches a false

doctrine. God has always challenged us to seek and study for truth, and once it is found, to teach others about it.

And this is where I would like begin this study, with an understanding of what **truth** is. We are commanded to "*speak truth*" to all men (Pr. 8:7; Acts 26:25; Eph. 4:25). The Holy Spirit, the messenger of the Father, was identified as the giver of truth (Jn. 16:13); therefore, what He revealed in Scripture is truth. Now, what is truth? (Jn. 18:38) In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for truth is **emeth** and is defined as something firm, reliable, and stable. In the New Testament, the Greek word for truth is **aletheia** and is defined as something which conforms to objectiveness, reality, fact, and reason. So when we put these two definitions together, truth is something that always matches our reality and is firm and stable. So the opposite is, falsehood is something that doesn't jive with our reality and isn't firm and stable. This means what we hold onto in life (including doctrines) must align itself with reality/fact, which is firm and stable, meaning it can't be disputed.

This is the criteria we must use for the nature and efficacy of prayer. Unfortunately, with regard to this subject, many infuse presuppositions, emotion, and superstitions into this discussion, and many get unhinged and upset if something said or suggested is contrary to what we've always believed and held. Sort of like how the Pharisees/scribes treated Jesus after he exposed their erroneous thought processes. **GR**

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

In Order To Have Eternal Life We Must Keep His Commandments

Another condition listed by John is this: "And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments" (1 John 2:23). He states later, "Whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:22). The Scriptures clearly state that we are saved "by faith" (Eph. 2:8; etc.). But this must be obedient faith, "Faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6), for "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Jesus constantly emphasized the necessity of doing the will of God "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of God, but he that doeth the will of my Father" (Matt. 7:21). In fact, the Lord makes no promise of any blessing to one who does not obey Him! "He became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:9).

There must be the proper priorities in our lives, if we "have eternal life." John writes "Love not the world...the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life" (1 John 2:15-17). Instead, we must follow the admonition of Jesus, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). We cannot live for this world, with all its sensuality, greed and arrogance, and still claim we have eternal life. The apostle Paul exhorts "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God" (Rom. 12:1). Our entire lives must be channeled into obeying the Lord, if we have eternal life. "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls*" (Matt. 11:28-29).

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



June 11

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *W. Holmes*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Communion Leader: *W. Holmes*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *C. Burnett; R. Trevino; M. de la Garza; Z. Watkins*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11: 23-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

PM WORSHIP

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

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

After Greeter: *D. Mathis*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 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
 Sam Amos *(awaiting surgery)*
 Parents of David Lyssy
 Sandra Welch
 Lavender Nelson *(PAM Hospital)*
 Tita Cortez *(sister of Sam Ramirez)*
 Billie Dorries *(health issues)*

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; Esenowo's *(Nigeria)*; Janie and Maldonado's *(NY)*; Lyssys' *(NYC)*

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JUNE

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

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:

King Saul (3)

PM Sermon:

Sixth Song

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 7: B. Dorries

June 14: D. Mathis

June 21: W. Holmes

FOR THE RECORD

MAY 28/31

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 32
 Sunday AM Worship 43
 Sunday PM Worship 31
 Wednesday Bible Study 28
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,362.44**

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