

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 (7)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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In Order To Have Eternal Life We Must Be Children of God

To conclude our study of the master/servant relationship as mentioned in the OT, we are reminded that this relationship was for the express purpose of working to make a living for both the master and the servant, providing for the less fortunate (poor servant), and serving one another. It was not, contrary to popular belief, for the wealthy to take advantage of, or abuse and neglect their servants, for this was a clear violation of Scripture. Hence, as we matriculate into the NT, Jesus emphasizes a teaching that would reinforce the main purpose of any relationships, including the master/servant. It is found in Mark 9:33-37. It is here that his disciples disputed among themselves, saying, “*Who should be the greatest?*” Jesus answered and said, “*If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.*” He then took a little child and placed him in the midst of his disciples saying, “*Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receives me: and whosoever shall receive me, receives not me, but him that sent me.*” The point was clear. It wasn't about obtaining the highest position in life, it was about humbling ourselves like little children and deferring ourselves to each other. Therefore, despite our positions in life our duty was to serve each other. And this principle set the tone for the Apostles' message concerning relationships we form. In



the book of Ephesians, Paul says that husband and wife must submit to each other (5:21-33). He then says that children must submit to parents as parents bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (6:1-4). He then spoke concerning the servant and master relationship, where servants were commanded to submit to their masters and serve them well (6:5-8). But then he added this to the masters: “*do the same things unto their servants, giving up threats: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is their respects of persons with him*” (6:9). Paul would elaborate on this in Colossians 3:25 when he said, “*But he that doest wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done; and there is no respect of persons.*”

There we have it. God expected in all relationships that there be mutual respect for each other and that no wrong doing be allowed or permitted. It wasn't the master/servant relationship that was in question, it was the way each treated each other. Both were were to serve each other in a cordial and loving manner. But this was not always the case. In 1 Peter 2:18, we read, “*Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.*” So not only were there masters who treated their servants good and gentle, but there were those who treated their servants terrible. And in these cases, surprisingly God commanded servants to take it patiently (2:20). May God be praised!

THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (2)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The monthly elders, deacons, and preacher meeting is today at 4:00 pm.

The family home devotional, hosted by Carolyn Harris, will be at 11:00 on July 1 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.

Our congregational meeting will be on June 25th at 4:00 pm. We encourage all our members to be present.

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 Higgs 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.

As we noted last week, our beliefs, especially dealing with prayer, must be consistent with reality, which is the definition of truth. Next, our beliefs must be *logical, reasonable, and make sense*. And third, our beliefs must be confirmed by a correct interpretation of the Scriptures. Unfortunately, the doctrine of prayer is usually upheld, not by the aforementioned items, rather through emotions, feelings, superstitions, and assumptions. We would do well to get this subject right before we convince ourselves and others of things that aren't supported by truth, logic, and Scripture.

Let's begin with how people generally treat the subject of prayer. Since the Bible teaches that God made us (Gen. 1:26), making Him our Creator and Father (Ecc. 12:1), naturally the idea is, as we liken it to our physical relationships, a father is there to help and provide us the things necessary for a successful life; hence, a supplication for things (cf., 4:1; 5:3; 39:12; 55:1; 64:1). The thought by many here is, by asking God for things, He will change or transform my situation for the better. Now, here is where critical thinking skills must be employed to determine whether or not this is accurate.

First, the Scriptures teach that God "*knows what things you need, before you ask him*" (Matt. 6:8). Doesn't this mean that an "All-Knowing God" knew beforehand what we would need, thus providing all of those needs in the beginning. Consider Psalm 104 and how the psalmist laid out the wondrous things God did in order to make "*glad the heart of man*" and "*strengthen his heart*" (v.15). This would mean that **there is nothing** God didn't anticipate or would surprise Him as man lived upon this earth. **God made sure that all of his needs were met**. This would include protection against diseases (i.e., health), which is what most prayers are directed unto. So, if the Scriptures teach that God knew what

we would need before we asked him, then wouldn't it make sense that the things we ask Him for have already been provided? Therefore, what logically follows? It is up to us to discover and use the blessings He's given already to help us in any given situation.

Second, the Scriptures teach *personal responsibility* and *choice* (Deut. 30:15-19; Josh. 24:15). This is very similar to obedience to the gospel. God has **already provided** the means and method of salvation, it is up to us to enact the them in order to be saved. In other words, God isn't going to do something supernaturally or miraculously, rather He has already given the information for us to follow, coupled with a thinking mind, which stimulates action of the body. This is similar to prayer and requests. God expects us to use and enact the physical blessings He has already given to ensure we live a successful life.

Frankly, it is up to us to secure a blessed life with all that God has provided us with. Unfortunately, the use of prayer comes when we neglect or default in use of God's blessings. The practice of prayer should be used to treat God as our "*genie in the sky*", rather prayer should be used to express deepest gratitude for what God has done and provided us with already (1 Thess. 5:18).

Now, here is an interesting thought that we will elaborate on next week. Did you know that the physical blessings we encounter, that many "religious" people connect with prayer is simply general blessings of God given to all men, both good and evil (cf. Matt. 5:44-48). In other words, when prayers have been offered and things work our well, is it possible that it wasn't God answering prayers specifically, rather through God's general blessings of life, all men have been given the opportunity of being blessed, regardless of race, religion, and culture? May God be given all praise!
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

In Order To Have Eternal Life We Must Be Children Of God

Only God's children are promised eternal life - "*Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are...In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil; whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God*" (1 Jn. 3:1,10). The apostle Paul encourages us to "*be imitators of God, as beloved children*" (Eph 5:1). God loves His children, and He wants them to be with Him forever. But who are His children? Again, there is a positive way to determine that.

We do not become children of God because WE say so, but because we meet the conditions God gives, "*For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you were baptized into Christ did put on Christ*" (Gal 3:26-27). If one is a child of God, it is because he has, through faith, been "*baptized into Christ.*" Jesus stated it this way in the great commission, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mark 16:16). The Holy Spirit has given us the word of God (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:11-13; 1 Thes. 2:13), and the inspired apostle, in that word writes: "*As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God*" (Rom. 8:14). Thus, when one has been led to be baptized into Christ, "*The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God*" (Rom. 8-16).

Let us do a bit of self examination. How do we measure up? As we study our Bible much, much more, can we truly say, "*We are children of God*"?

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 18

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *Open*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Communion Leader: *W. Holmes*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.; N. Esenowo; G. Gribble*

Scripture: *1 Cor. 11: 23-29*
 Sermon: *Guest Speaker*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo; J. Watkins*
 Sermon: *Guest Speaker*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 In Charge of Invitation: *E. Hipp*

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)

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:

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

AM Sermon:

Guest Speaker

PM Sermon:

Guest Speaker

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 14: **D. Mathis**
 June 21: **W. Holmes**
 June 28: **G. Rodriguez**

FOR THE RECORD

June 11/14

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 28
 Sunday AM Worship 42
 Sunday PM Worship 30
 Wednesday Bible Study 39
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$964.45**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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