

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)

Are All Churches Alike?

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

How Israel Fell From Glory (32)

Shepherd's Corner:
Hot, Cold, or Lukewarm? (2)

There is a growing misconception today that all churches are the same, but is this accurate. To begin with, obviously churches are not the same because of their different names, doctrines, and church leadership they espouse. Further, all churches are not the same because the Bible teaches that God only prophesied and sanctioned “one” church/kingdom in which His Son would establish and the apostles would advocate for (cf. Isa. 2:1-2; Dan. 7:13-14, cf. Matt. 16:18). Due to ignorance of God’s word, the increase of denominationalism, and the argument “agree to disagree,” the identity and advocacy of the one true church is falling by the wayside, and it is no wonder, that even among God’s people, you’ll hear the Lord’s church identified as just another denomination in mainstream Christendom.

The confusion begins at the misunderstanding of the word “church.” Many believe this term simply identifies a building or denomination, but what they don’t know is, the term “church” (Matt. 16:18) actually comes from a Greek word which means “called out body of people” (i.e., *ekklesia*). The Apostle Peter identified what this meant - “...hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9). In other words, people of the world have been

called out of darkness (sin) to be shine as lights (cf. Phil. 2:15). This means that the *church* has a function and obligation to show the world the “true” light of living and action (Matt. 5:13-16). But where does this light emanate from? It comes from the mind of man (Matt. 6:22-23). Hence, the Lord’s church is to demonstrate a difference with regard to mental function and capacity.

This is why the Bible is clear that God established “one” church, which were to preach “one” faith and “one” baptism (Eph. 4:4-5). It is through this “one” message of repentance and baptism that penitent individuals are added to the “one” true body of Christ (cf. Acts 2:38,41,47; 1 Cor. 12:12-13). Once added, the Bible teaches that the Lord’s church is to dive deep into His word and four acts of worship aimed at strengthening his mind (Acts 2:42). Once strengthened, then it is the mission of the church to be infectious in intellect and godly attitude for the sole purpose of converting those we come in contact with Christ’s truth (Mrk. 16:15). We convert by being different in intellect and emotion, showing the world what it means to be part of the one true church. Hence, not all churches are alike because they do not have this formula for spiritual (intellectual) success. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (32)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

Volunteers are needed for the month of April: a man to be in charge of services and a host for the family home devotional. See one of the elders if you can serve in one of these areas.

Teachers are needed for the second quarter. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. If you need teaching material, see Raul Baltierra.

Our congregational meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm on March 26.

The Ladies' Get-together will be on March 23 at 7:00 pm, while the men's breakfast will be on March 25 at 9:00 am. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

An elder's deacons, and preacher meeting is scheduled for today at 4:00 pm.

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

Our next young adult gathering will be an outdoor gathering at the Point Park and Eats in Boerne on March 24 at 7 pm. Hope to see everyone there for this fellowship gathering.

AREA NEWS

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

Israel had put herself in a vicarious position (i.e., captivity) through her chosen sinful conduct, and as such, God divorced her and sold her to her creditors (Isa. 50:1-2a). Yet, God continued to give His people hope by saying, *"Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dies for thirst"* (50:2b). Despite Israel's path of decadence, obstinance, and coming destruction, Israel would learn the hard way, and through their arrogance, failures, and eventual downfall, these would serve as a wake up call to their condition (50:4-6). The condition being, they had sinned in the midst of a holy and powerful God (50:7-8). Therefore, *"...who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant?"* (50:9-10a). Isaiah reminded Israel that they were the creature (*"walking in darkness"*) and that the Creator would help them with light; therefore, all men should have a healthy respect for Him by trusting and following Him (50:10b). But what usually happens is, *"Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with*

boring torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment" (50:11). Men usually govern their own way, which ends in total disaster and destruction.

God pleaded with His people saying, *"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, who see the Lord: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him"* (51:1-2). God called upon His people to remember their beginnings, in which their father Abraham demonstrated an attitude and conduct of righteousness. Hence, God looked for the same character and conduct among His people. If they abided by this call, Isaiah said, *"For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden...joy and gladness will be found in her"* (51:3). The way Israel could regain her spiritual luster was to *"Give attention... for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples"* (51:4). Despite Israel woes, they would be corrected and helped. May God be praised! **Bro. 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? (2)

The church at Laodicea had failed to perform the duties that were expected of it, as a church. It is inconceivable that any institution as extensive and as costly as the church should exist without some work to perform, some mission to accomplish. With some overlapping, the major areas of the work of the church are to preach, to practice, and to personify Christ. Paul stressed this in the Letter to the church in Ephesus, chapter 3. Therefore God's eternal purpose for the church is disclosed. The Great Commission is self-perpetuating (Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2). The basic charge of the Great Commission is to preach Christ (Mk. 16:15-16).

There were several churches in the early history of the early church that were held up as "teaching churches". 1) Jerusalem Acts 2:42; 5:42; 8:4. 2) Antioch Acts 13:1-2 3) Philippi Phil. 1:3-5; 4:15-16 4) Ephesus Acts 19:8-10).

Simply stated, men are drawn to God by teaching; no teaching, no obedience, no salvation (Jn. 6:44-45; Rom 10:13-15).

Questions to consider, Are we a "teaching church"? Are we using all means available to teach others God's Word?

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



MARCH 19

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; A. Maldonado; E. Castillo; A. Jacob*
 Scripture: *Matt. 27:45-54*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *S. Amos*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *Z. Watkins; Open*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

After Greeter: *E & K Hipp*
 Greeter/Usher: *D. Mathis*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 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 (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 MARCH

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Holmes
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
White
 Auditorium Service Duties:
White
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
White
 Brother in charge of services:
T. Mayces

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:

The Account of Moses (3)

PM Sermon:

Fourth Song (1)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 15: *D. Mathis*

March 22: *W. Holmes*

March 29: *G. Rodriguez*

FOR THE RECORD

MARCH 12/15

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 42
 Sunday AM Worship 56
 Sunday PM Worship 32
 Wednesday Bible Study 44
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,318.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

11026 Wurzbach Rd.
 San Antonio, TX 78230
 (210) 696-5532

Fax: (210) 696-5181

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