

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)

A Study in Philemon (4)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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How Can You Know You Have Eternal Life?

As we noticed last week, the relationship between a master and his servant wasn't as many speculate (due to 'modern' slavery facts and incidents) - a love/hate relationship, rather ancient master/servant relationships were often cordial, friendly, and filled with love (Ex. 21:5). But as we ended last week, this wasn't always the case. We read in the same context of Exodus 21:1-11, “*And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished. Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for he is his money*” (Ex. 21:20-21). He further noted: “*And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall let him go free for his eye's sake. And if he smite out his manservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake*” (Ex. 21:26-27).

Many, after reading these passages cry foul and point out that God allowed the brutal beating of servants; hence, God is immoral for allowing this to happen. But upon closer inspection and review, looking at the immediate and remote context, a different picture emerges. First, the use of a rod within the Jewish framework, according to the Scriptures, wasn't used arbitrarily to subjugate someone to do work, as did other nations, namely the Egyptians did (Ex. 1:12; 2:23-24), rather the function of the rod was



used primarily for the corporeal punishment of children (Pr. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15). And here is something to consider carefully. **First**, instructive correction was given to guide a child's fledging thought process (Pr. 1:8). If after several attempts were made to correct the child with instruction, then God authorized corporeal punishment. **Second**, corporeal punishment was to be held in check, and done orderly. In other words, a parent couldn't lose control and begin abusing his children (cf. Pr. 22:6, 24-25). **Third**, here is the connection between the master and servant relationship and the rod. In the many contexts of disciplining children we find discussion about masters and servants. And here is one that makes it very clear. In Proverbs 29:19, Solomon says, “*A servant will not be corrected with words: for though he understand he will not answer.*” And then we learn

who this servant was: “*He that delicately brings up his servant from a child shall have become his son at the length*” (Pr. 29:21). As you can clearly see, children were often under the care and guardianship of a master, and when a child disobeyed incessantly, after instructive discipline had been given, the master was authorized to give out corporeal punishment. But despite his ability to do so didn't mean that the master was at liberty to go beyond a certain point (i.e., abusing). When this occurred, God then gave certain stipulations and consequences. May God be praised!

How Israel Fell From Glory (42)

A Study in the Book of Isaiah

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

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.

Teachers are still needed for the 3rd quarter (July-September). A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

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

The Ladies Bible Class and the Men's Training Class will meet today on May 28th. The ladies will be studying lesson 8 in their book, and the men will be studying lesson 1, a Godly Man, brought by Brother Bill.

A volunteer is needed in June to prepare communion. See one of the elders if you can help.

YOUTH

There will be no June devotional because of our June 10th Youth Day.

YOUNG ADULT

A volunteer is needed to host our next young adult devotional. See one of the elders if you can serve in this capacity.

AREA NEWS

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

Chapter 64 begins with judgment upon Israel for her wretched path of sin. While God "*joyfully meets him who works righteousness*" (v. 5a), God was angry with His people who had sinned and their "*righteous deeds had become like a polluted garment*" (v. 6a). Isaiah reminded the people of Israel, sinners before God, that they would "*fade like a leaf as the wind takes them away*" and that God would "*hide his face from them*" (v. 7).

But Isaiah voiced hope for Israel, if Israel would become the clay and allow God, the potter, to mold and shape them as before. Therefore, Isaiah pleaded unto God for Israel's sake and reminded the Lord of Jerusalem and Zion's demise, and how long He would keep silent and not act on Israel's behalf (vs. 11-12).

But instead of recognizing Israel's resurgence and prosperity, God (once again), prophesied of a coming king and kingdom that would include all nations of men (65:1). Why? Because God had "*spread out his hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices*" (65: 2ff). God became infuriated with their actions of sin against Him and said, "*I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their lap both your iniquities and your fathers' iniquities together*" (65: 6). It was because of Israel's

persistence in sin that God would ultimately reject Israel and set up a "*new wine in the cluster*" (65:8, the church of Christ), and thus become God's wanted and chosen offspring (65:9). As for Israel, God would dismantle and reject because of her persistence in sin (65:10-16)

Isaiah then prophesied concerning the creation of a "*new heaven and a new earth*" (65:17a), which symbolized the creation of a new people and society. In other words, old Israel would



ultimately be rejected and a new people, with a new state of mind and purpose (Jer. 31:27-33), would re-create what God desired of Jerusalem - "*a joy and gladness*" of God (65:18). Within this new spiritual Jerusalem, namely the dwelling place of God within His new kingdom, God described a blessed existence where God's people would be blessed and their society filled with bliss and peace, where "*the wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Lord*" (65: 25). 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

How Can You Know If You Have Eternal Life?

Many people ask, "Can a person be sure that he is saved, that he is going to heaven?" Too many Christians live in doubt, never sure of their relationship with God, never sure of their eternal destiny. But just as the scriptures reveal to a person when he is lost, so do the same scriptures reveal to him when he is saved. It is not a matter of guess-work, nor just wishful dreaming. The Lord intends that we be sure. Near the conclusion of his letter of instructions to Christians, the apostle John wrote, "These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

We can know that we have eternal life. No maybes, no doubts. But notice the premise on which John makes that statement. "These things have I written unto you." We cannot assume we have eternal life, while we ignore what God tells us is necessary to have it! There are specific conditions to be met in order to have eternal life, and these are things John has written. Let us see how we may know we have eternal life.

Over the next few weeks, we will examine the things we must do in order to be sure that we can 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

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



MAY 28

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *N. Esenowo*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Communion Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *B. Dorries; R. Baltierra; Z. Watkins;*
M. de la Garza

Scripture: *Ps. 22:14-18*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*
 Song Leader: *Cong, Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *N. Esenowo; G. Rodriguez*

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

After Greeter: *G & D Gribble*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 In Charge of Invitation: *E. Hipp*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Joe Guillen
 Ina Dial
 David and Elijah Sudhoff
 Joshua White *(dealing with blood clots)*
 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

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 (1)

PM Sermon:

Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 3: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

May 10: *T. Mayces*

May 17: *E. Castillo*

FOR THE RECORD

MAY 21/24

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 45
 Sunday AM Worship 62
 Sunday PM Worship 34
 Wednesday Bible Study 42
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,266.16**

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