

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)

HELPING THE POOR AND NEEDY (5)

Gabriel Rodriguez



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Helping the poor and needy wasn't supposed to become a forever burden for the giver, rather it was an opportunity to help someone get back on their feet so that in due time that could help themselves. Unfortunately, many religions have created a **system of welfare** that God never intended. The structure and commands of God are clear in this regard. We have to help people grow and become responsible for themselves. To simply give without anything in return is foolish and unwise. Not even God, the Giver of all things, gives without demanding something in return. We've created a generation of dependents and entitlements, rather than creating a people who truly care about themselves and the process of providing for their own needs and wants.

And finally, it's not the material goods people should be in search of, rather it should be an earnest search for what is more important than physical blessings - knowing and applying God's knowledge and wisdom to our lives. Why should this be the number one priority?

Because God's word teaches and motivates us in how to become successful in life. It teaches the process in how to get our lives right and what is expected of us to expedite our lives to bliss and rewards. But when people are only about the physical blessings, they are only seeking a band-aid to their problems, and they are not seeking to really better their lives in the long run.

While certainly Jesus was sympathetic to the needs of people throughout his ministry, he was mostly interested in their spiritual well-being, and people who seek help must be willing to manifest this in their lives. When they don't and simply want physical goods, this should be a red flag as to their true motives. They don't exhibit that they want to better themselves and succeed in life, rather they are simply wanting someone to meet a specific need, when in reality the specific need they need is motivation to propel them to work and provide for themselves. May God be praised!

THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (13)

Church News and Announcement

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by the Rodriguez family, will be next Sunday, October 8. The menu is healthy potluck.

The family home devotional, hosted by the Dorries, will be on October 13 at 7:00 pm. The menu is healthy potluck.

YOUTH

The youth devotional, hosted by the Hipps, will be on October 20th at 7:00 pm.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional, hosted by the Rodriguez family, will be on October 27 at 7:00 pm.

AREA NEWS

We are invited to the 20th Annual Lubbock Lectures, October 8-11. Their theme this year is "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth." A schedule is posted in our foyer.

The Schertz congregation will be hosting their annual lectures in November. Please visit their website for more information.

While the model prayer ended in verse 13, Jesus adds: *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you: But if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"* (Matt. 6:14-15). This ending seems out of order in the context since Jesus already covered this thought in verse 12, but upon closer inspection, I believe the point is clear. If we go to Mark 11:20-26 Jesus uses these same words in verses 25-26 in the context of having faith in God in the midst of trials of life (vs. 22-23). Hence, Jesus said, *"Whatever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them"* (v.

24). In other words, whatever challenge(s) we meet, we must meet it with optimism and a belief that things will get better. And then Jesus said, *"And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses"* (vs. 25-26). The point is, many times our mountains of life, our challenges, have to do with people failing us or sinning against us. Our response should never be to seek reprisals against them, rather we must showcase a strong disciplined mind. This is the thought of Jesus in Matthew 6:14-15. The temptations of life that we often face are interactions with people, and people have a way of testing us and pushing us to our limits. But even then Jesus said, we must never showcase a hate and unloving attitude, rather we

must be willing to show them an attitude of love and compassion.

This is what it means to be a follower of God. Because despite our attitude unto God, God didn't seek our reprisals but was patient with us. This is why, since God is patient and forgiving with us, we should do likewise to those that challenge and sin against us. Now this process takes great mental strength and the reason the next item that Jesus speaks about contextually is fasting (6:16-18). Fasting was symbolic of

someone being able to harness his mind and body to accomplish great things in life. Therefore, when dealing with people that are *"angry, wrathful, malicious, filthy, and liars, are*

response should

be "bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Col. 3:8-9;12-13).

Our greatest temptation will always be our interaction with mankind; therefore, it takes great patience, skill, and dedication to overcome these challenges and manifest an attitude that will hopefully stem a change as Paul noted: *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves...Therefore, if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in doing this you shall heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good"* (Rom. 12:19-21). May God be praised!

G. Rodriguez



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

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

God's Ways

"But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us..." (Titus 3:4-5a). To understand how God can save a sinner, John tells us of God's nature. "God is Love" (1 John 4:8) and "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son " (John 3:16).

God loves every person, every soul. God hates every sin, but loves every sinner. This is not due to some inherent goodness within the sinner, but due to the inherent nature of God, for God is love. It is God's character that called Him to reach out to mankind in love. God loves even the most wicked sinner.

God's love called Him to action. Paul tells us that God's love for mankind appeared. God's love appeared in the form of His son, who became human in order to reach the lost. While mankind was evil, disobedient and selfish, God reached out by sending His own Son to be among us. In that way God's love could be shown to man and experienced by man. God's way of saving sinners is seen in His nature to love and in His willingness to send His Son among us in order to save us.

"John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me" (John 1:26:30).

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



OCTOBER 1

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Communion Leader: *B. Dorries*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *Open; R. Baltierra Jr.; J. Watkins; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Ps. 23*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *D. Mathis*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *E. Castillo*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *P. White*
 Greeter/Usher: *G. Gribble*
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*
 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)*
 David Sedgwick *(brain tumor)*
 David Moore *(Sister Moore's husband)*

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); Hipps (State of Washington); Mayces (West TX).

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES SEPTEMBER

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Rodriguez
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Rodriguez
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Rodriguez
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Rodriguez
 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:

Success Possesses Possibilities of Failures

PM Sermon:

Apocrypha Investigation (1)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

September 6: *B. Dorries*

September 13: *N. Esenowo*

September 20: *W. Holmes*

FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 24/27

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 45
 Sunday AM Worship 57
 Sunday PM Worship 33
 Wednesday Bible Study 25
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,768.00**

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