

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 (3)

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God's Ways Are Wonderful!

As we learned last week, despite our economic status, God expected both the rich and the poor to do what they could and not take advantage of each other. But here is another interesting principle we read in Proverbs (10:4): “*He becomes poor that deals with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent makes rich.*” Also, “*The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute*” (Pr. 12:24). And finally, “*The soul of the sluggard desires and has nothing: but the should of the diligent shall be made fat*” (Pr. 13:4).

The principle is quite lucid. Poverty, at times, comes not because of unfortunate circumstances of life, rather poverty and need comes because of our unwillingness to work hard and make something of ourselves. With this type of lackadaisical attitude, it is no wonder that “*poverty comes as one that travels and an armed man*” (Pr. 6:11) and “*slothfulness cast one into a deep sleep: and an idle soul shall suffer hunger*” (Pr. 19:15).

The consequences of one who makes himself poor and needy because of lack of effort and determination, Paul said, “*if any would not work, neither should he eat...Now them that are such we command and exhort...that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread...And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed*” (2 Thess. 3:10-14). He further commanded: “*And that you study to be quiet, to do your own business, and to work with your own hands...That you may walk decorously toward them that are without and*

may not be depended on no one” (1 Thess. 4: 11-12). Paul made it very clear that through our hard work and effort we could have richness and sustenance, but if we choose to neglect our duty of work, then the consequences would be poverty and rejection. As I have mentioned before, it's one thing to be poor and needy because of unforeseen circumstances, and it's another to be poor and needy because of our unwillingness to work and provide for ourselves (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8). The point is, I must first work hard to supply my needs and wants, and not be dependent on others. Not even the apostles, who had the authority to take monetary blessings from the church (1 Cor. 9:1-11), because of their spiritual work's sake, did expect the fledging church to provide for them, but they worked (2 Thess. 3:8, cf. Acts 18:3). The idea of providing for yourself by working and being diligent is a universal principle God ordained for all men. Therefore, if we demonstrate an asking for something attitude without a willingness to work for it, then certainly no pity or sorrow should be given to us. And if we give to someone without an expectation of work, then we actually do a disservice to these folks, enabling them to continue in their bad habit of slothfulness, receiving something for nothing. We should expect people who ask for money to work for it. This is the way of reality. God has blessed us with all things, but we must be willing to work hard to get it. So why shouldn't we have the same expectations from those who ask for help. May God be praised!

THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (10)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The Ladies Get-together will be on September 28 and the men's breakfast will be on September 23. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

The elders, deacons, and preacher meeting has been postponed.

Our congregational meeting will be September 24 at 4:00 pm.

YOUTH

The young adult and youth devotional, hosted by Sister Harris will be on September 29th. More details to follow later.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult and youth devotional, hosted by Sister Harris will be on September 29th. More details to follow later.

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.

The model prayer in Matthew 6 and Luke 11 was not given for the purpose of quoting the words verbatim (Matt. 6:7), rather it was given to teach us something more deeply and spiritual about life. As we've begun our dissection of these passages, we learned last week that Jesus is providing a scheme/plan of what is expected from us in life. In other words, the model prayer helps to remind us what our focus and mission in life is about. By way of review, last week we noticed that the beginning portion of the prayer addressed the authority of God (our Creator) and our response to Him, which was to become holy in conduct and character (cf. 1 Pet. 1:13-14). This holiness would become the requirement of the coming kingdom that Christ was to establish (Matt. 16:18-19), built on his righteous conduct and character (2 Pet. 1:3). This was why "doing the will of God" upon earth (by humans) and in heaven (by angels) was very important. All of God's creation are commanded to obey Him, and as we obey the One with all authority, then we're supposed to model our lives after our Creator. And this is where we continue in thought.

Jesus said, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11; Lk. 11:3). Now, if Christ began with a discussion of spiritual matters, then why would this request be physical in nature? Since Jesus in the remote and immediate context

was concerned with the spiritual aspects of life, then why can't we see that the request of daily bread has reference to the desire of God's word, which is equated to Jesus' life and words. In John 6, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life..." (v.35). But then he explains what he meant: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (v. 38). To do the will of God meant to follow His words as he mentioned the process in verse 45: "And they shall be all taught of God. Every man that has heard and learned of the Father, comes unto me."



So we can clearly see that request for daily bread (in context) referenced our desire to be fed by God's word, which is a responsibility we must fulfill. We must desire God's word more than our necessary food (Job 23:12). And once we consume God's word, then it leaves us fulfilled and satisfied (Ps. 119:130-131). But more than that, a consumption of God's word reveals our respect for His authority and gives us the information by which to be holy as He is, which is needed to be a true citizen in Christ's kingdom. This requires that we "do his will", applying His word to our lives, mimicking His character and being the light in the world. And this is what Christ did throughout his ministry, he obeyed God and modeled his life after the Father (Jn. 5:19-20, cf. Heb. 1:3). 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

God's Ways Are Wonderful

"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another"(Titus 3:3). Paul begins by revealing that the sorry state of the world is due to man's rebellion to the ways of God. God wants people to love, to be gentle, to be kind and considerate. Instead, people - all people - sin and follow their own passions and wants. Some sin sexually, Others sin selfishly. Some lie, others steal. Some hate, others are arrogant and unfeeling. Some are envious, others judgmental and cruel. But "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

Some may ask, "How can God save that Man?" This forces us to face another question for ourselves. "How can God save me?" For that matter, "How can God save anyone?", since all are sinners. Man's condition forces God to become our judge in order to condemn our sinfulness. This is true of a man who batters, or a man who lies. This is true of a sinner who has never been in a church building, or a Pharisaical believer who is filled with sin while never missing a worship service. All of us were disobedient and lost.

"*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (Jn. 3:16).

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



September 17

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra Jr.*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Communion Leader: *T. Mayces*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *G. Rodriguez; A. Campbell; S. Amos; M. de la Garza*

Scripture: *Mark 15:33-39*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*
 Opening Prayer: *A. Maldonado*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *T. Mayces; Z. Watkins*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *W. Holmes*

After Greeter: *G & I Rodriguez*
 Greeter/Usher: *D. Mathis*
 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 *(nephew of Pauline)*
 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:
Quintero Family
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Neaves
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Open
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry
 room
Open
 Brother in charge of services:
T. Mayces; R. Baltierra

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 Breeds Contempt

PM Sermon:

Introduction (4)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

September 6: *B. Dorries*
September 13: *N. Esenowo*
September 20: *W. Holmes*

FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 10/13

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 45
 Sunday AM Worship 68
 Sunday PM Worship 35
 Wednesday Bible Study 38
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,860.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA *(Adult Bible class)*

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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