

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 (4)

Inside This Issue:

The Nature and Efficacy of Prayer (12)

Shepherd's Corner:
God's Ways

As we conclude our thought process in this subject, let me reiterate, there are times when helping others is needed and commanded, but then there are other times when we enable folks to become dependent, never aspiring to better themselves and their situations.

As we look into the ministry of Jesus, his purpose and goal was not to physically heal and help everyone he encountered, rather those whom he choose to assist were helped with the sole intent of bettering themselves afterwards. In other words, the people Christ gave a hand to were expected to work and provide for themselves in the future (cf. Matt. 20:1-15); Christ didn't expect them to be fully dependent on him forever (Jn. 6:25-27).

Now, during the days of the establishment of Christ's church, as mentioned in the book of Acts (ch. 2ff), we read that the early church *“sold their possessions and goods, and parted to all men, as every man had need”* (2:45) and *“the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul...and had all things in common...Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of land or houses sold them, and brought the prices of things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need”* (4:32,34-35). There are several things to consider here before we solidify a doctrine of helping the poor and needy. Notwithstanding the command and principle already given of working and making a living for oneself, certainly these passages were not for the purpose of simply

helping people when they asked for help, rather these were special times and circumstances.

First, ancient society and the way people made a living was quite different then and this would have certainly been the reason why funds were collected. It's obvious that many new converts rejected their Jewish and Pagan upbringing, which would have resulted in persecutions, such as losing their family security and in other cases their livelihoods (i.e., pagan jobs) (cf. Rev. 6: 5-6). Hence, it should come at no surprise that members of the church stepped up to help during these times of crisis. This, I believe is seen in 2 Corinthians 8:2 when Paul mentioned in connection with giving, it was a result of the *“great trial of affliction”*. *Second*, with the disparity between men and women's roles, women who chose to obey the gospel might have caused some friction with their livelihood and status as well, thus requiring help. *Third*, women and children who lost their financial support during these days, would have experienced a financial strain; therefore, after the family did want they could (1 Tim. 5:8), then the church family stepped in to make sure they were taken care of (Jas. 1:27). *Fourth*, funds were collected to help those who were busy about preaching and teaching God's word, and since jobs were scarce and times were more difficult, financial assistance was given to help those men accomplish God's will. May God be praised!

THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (12)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

Our congregational meeting is today at 4:00 pm. We encourage all our members to be present.

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.

In Matthew 6:12, Jesus mentions in the model prayer: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Coming off the heels of seeking God's word like our daily bread (cf. Job 23:12; Matt. 4:4; Jn. 6:35-39), the focus is now put on rejecting sin. And this makes sense. To be a follower of God's word means that we will reject sin (Ps. 119:11). Consider carefully the words "forgive" and "debt".

The word "forgive" (aphiemi) means to let go or to give up a thing to a person, and the word "debt" means a sin, fault, or offense. Putting these thoughts together, one can see that in order for God to let go of sin from our lives we must be willing to **reject sin from our lives** (i.e., *repentance*, cf. Acts 2:38), and interestingly, forgiveness is contingent on repentance (Lk. 17:3). This is why John the Baptist and Jesus called for repentance in their ministries (Matt. 3:8; Lk. 13:3,5). And just as God is willing to let go of our sin through repentance, we must be willing to do likewise to others, who repent and change their ways. Everyone who seeks change deserves a second chance. And this is why Jesus in Matthew 18:21-35 spoke of a parable concerning what God has done for us, forgiving us of our debt, and how we should reciprocate the action to others, who repent of their ways.

This is why in Matthew 6:13a Jesus then says, "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." Clearly one can see the message following the subject of

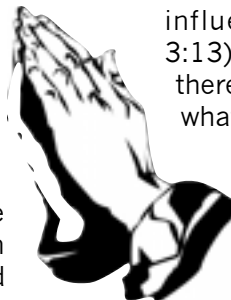
repenting of sin. As 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "There is no temptation taken you...but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able, but will make a way of escape." Sin or temptation isn't the problem (per se), because the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one (Eph. 2:2-3; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 5:18). The problem is when we allow our minds to be taken captive by deceptive worldly influences (2 Tim. 2:26; Heb. 3:13). Sin is a choice one makes; therefore, what we choose in life is what we are subject to. As Paul noted in 1 Corinthians, there

is no influence of sin that can overcome us, but God has given us a way of escape, and the way of escape is our minds. With a strong and disciplined mind, one can say no to sin and yes to righteousness (Gen. 39:10; Dan. 1:8).

This is why Jesus goes on to say, "For thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen" (6:13b). Taking the meanings of kingdom, power, and glory, a story ending is given. When we use our minds to follow God's will, rejecting sin from our lives, the end result is possessing rule and authority over my life (**kingdom**), showcasing the innate power of the mind - willpower (**power**), and ending with an impeccable conduct and character that is worthy of God (**glory**).

In this model prayer, the focus is put on us - our goal and mission in life, which is to be as God has called us to live. 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

"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



September 24

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *E. Castillo*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Communion Leader: *W. Holmes*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *B. Dorries; N. Esenowo; M. de la Garza; Open*

Scripture: *Matt. 26:26-29*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *A. Maldonado*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *D. Mathis*
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; R. Baltierra*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *T & G Mayces*
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 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
 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:
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 Necessitates an Overhaul

PM Sermon:

Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

SEPTEMBER 17/20

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 36
 Sunday AM Worship 48
 Sunday PM Worship 25
 Wednesday Bible Study 36
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,984.00**

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