

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 (2)

Inside This Issue:

The Nature and Efficacy of Prayer (10)

Shepherd's
Corner:
Peace With God
Through Our Lord
Jesus Christ

As we noted last week, the comparison between the poor and needy of ancient times is quite different from the poor and needy of modern times. We've certainly evolved from a time period where difficult situations created "legitimate" poverty and need, such as a death of family member (i.e., husbands and sons - only bread winners in a nomadic society), to some debilitating injury, and/or lack of resources, to now, where there is plenty of resources available (especially in the US) and even if we encounter some debilitating injury, there are courses of actions one can take to continue to provide for himself and his family in a blessed way. The point is, today we are blessed beyond measure and for many to use the Biblical narrative of helping the poor and needy without regard to these changing times and circumstances is unwise. Why unwise? Because we've created a system that God never intended. While God recognized in ancient times the need for those with means to help those without (cf. Deut. 15:11), God still had **high expectations** for the poor. Let's explain.

In Exodus 30:15, when God commanded a tax for the tabernacle, both the rich and the poor were to give. It wasn't just the responsibility of the rich to give to the work of God, but it was also the responsibility of the poor as well. And what's interesting is, God said, "*The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less....*" God's expectations for both was, neither were to be taken advantage of. Because the rich had plenty more to give

didn't mean that he was expected to front the tax all by himself, meaning the poor had to give their full share as well. So what this teaches is, just because someone was poor didn't mean he/she could take advantage of the system, and this is exactly what the modern day doctrine of helping the poor and needy has turned into. Those with need guilt those with wealth that it is their duty to provide for them. And as I mentioned last week, what we've created is a *system of welfare* where the poor come to **expect things from the rich**, but this certainly is against principles of God's word.

The point is, everyone, regardless of wealth, has an obligation to themselves and others, and in the case of poverty and need, this wasn't to be used as an excuse, rather the poor and needy **were expected** to do what they could. This is quite different from the narrative today, where there are **no expectations** put on the poor and needy; the only expectations are from those with wealth to provide for those in need. But as one studies the Bible carefully, one will notice something interesting that God taught concerning a reason for poverty and need. Is it possible then, that by helping the poor and needy we might be doing a disservice to them? You might be pausing here thinking about this question a bit, but as we'll study next week, there are several passages that speak concerning why someone is poor and in need, and it doesn't fit the legitimacy that we mentioned in the beginning. May God be praised!

THE NATURE AND EFFICACY OF PRAYER (10)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon, hosted by the Quintero family, will be next Sunday, September 10. The menu is healthy potluck.

The Ladies Get-together will be on September 23, while the men's breakfast will be on September 30. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer.

We'll be collecting a special contribution today for those affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Please give generously. Also, brothers in Aransas Pass are asking for these items: tarps, fans, mops, buckets, push brooms, large trash cans, strong leaf rakes, wet wipes, screws (long and short boxes), gloves, duct tape, electrical tape, towels and rags, cleaning supplies, etc. If you can bring these items by the building tomorrow, then we can have them delivered to the brethren on Tuesday. Thanks.

YOUTH

The youth will be singing at a retirement home in Shavano Park next Sunday, September 10 at 3:00 pm. See Raul or Rosie for more details.

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.

Let's begin by noting that the model prayer given in Matthew 6 and Luke 11 was not for the purpose of quoting these words verbatim (cf. Matt. 6:7), rather the statements given were to point us to something *greater* and *figurative* in *meaning*. This is logical, seeing there are many who **do not pray** still receive blessings of life that are mentioned in this model prayer. This shows, as I noted last week, that prayer serves a different function, one that is **spiritual in nature**. Now, let's begin our analysis of the model prayer.

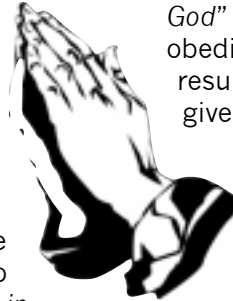
Jesus taught that when we begin to pray, we ought to say, "*Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed by thy name.*" This statement shows two things. First, our prayer life must acknowledge the one who possesses full authority over my life (cf. Ps. 100:3). And second, the "*hallowing*" of His name bears in mind our responsibility to represent God by mimicking his nature and character (cf. Jn. 5:19-20; Heb. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:13-14; 2 Pet. 1:4). Since God is holy, so should His followers be. Therefore, our first thought should be, to continue to remember whose we are and what our mission in life is. Now, where does the instruction of God's nature and word emanate from?

According to the prophet Isaiah, the coming kingdom of Christ would be responsible in preaching and teaching this message (2:3). This is why Christ stated next, "*Thy kingdom come.*" One has to

remember that the kingdom spoken of here was the one that Christ had been prophesied to establish (Dan. 7:13-14) and erected on Day of Pentecost (Matt. 16:18, cf. Lk. 24: 46-50; Acts 2:1-4, 38-47). Christ anticipated the coming of a "*new*" kingdom that would replace a defunct of nation of Israel (Rom. 9-11). This kingdom would have as their king, **Christ**, who came in the "*image of God*" (Heb. 1:3), and after his obedient walk with God, Christ was resurrected from the dead and given eternal life as a human (Heb. 2:14). Since Christ

conquered life, God gave him the right to be the "*head of the church*" (Col. 1:18), and as head, Christ would become the **representative** by which people in his kingdom would follow (1 Cor. 11:1). In other words, to be God-like, we must become Christ-like; therefore the commands to follow the wake of Christ were given (1 Cor. 11:2; 1 Jn. 2:6).

Christ then said, "*Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.*" The word "*will*" in this context is defined as commands and precepts. Therefore, the focus was on obedience, doing the will of God. The word "*done*" in this context is defined as to become or be made; of events in history. Hence, the message is clear. God sent forth His Son to establish the expectations of all His creation, one that focused on becoming or being made in the image of God by allowing God's word to mold and shape them. It's interesting that the WORD became flesh and demonstrated this. **GR**



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

Peace With God Though Our Lord Jesus Christ

The apostle Paul wrote of Jesus, "For he is our peace...that he might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) in one body unto God through the cross" (Eph. 2:14-16). The same apostle declares that we are "reconciled to God through the death of his Son" when we are "baptized into Jesus Christ, baptized into his death" (Rom. 5:10; 6:3). It is only "in Christ" that we can be reconciled to God, it is only "in Christ" that we can again be at peace with God: "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). The process by which our sins are forgiven is the process by which we are reconciled to God.

If we are to have peace with other people, we must learn to be at peace with ourselves. And we cannot have peace with self until we are at peace with God, in "the Prince of Peace." When we are willing to submit to Jesus as Lord and Savior, the "peace of God which passeth understanding" can be ours.

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not the righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother" (1 Jn. 3:9-10). This shows the characteristics of the children of God. They reflect the righteousness of their Father, and also act righteously. The nature of the children of the devil is just the opposite. Of them Jesus said, "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father will ye do" (Jn. 8:44).

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 27

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *E. Hipp*
 Communion Leader: *B. Dorries*
 Lord's Supper Servers: *G. Gribble; A. Maldonado; E. Castillo; R. Trevino*
 Scripture: *Isaiah 53:10-12*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *M. De La Garza*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *T. Mayces*
 Opening Prayer: *M. Lockhart*
 Song Leader: *E. Castillo*
 Lord's Supper: *M. De La Garza; W. Holmes*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *S. Amos*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 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)

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)

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:

King David (5)

PM Sermon:

Introduction (3)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

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

FOR THE RECORD

AUGUST 27/30

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 44
 Sunday AM Worship 54
 Sunday PM Worship 36
 Wednesday Bible Study 44
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,508.00**

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