

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)

Matthew 23 (8)

Gabriel Rodriguez

Inside This Issue:

Give Me a Scorned Church!

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Always Determine To Do the Right Thing!

What validates one's spirituality? What does the Lord look for from those claiming to belong to Him? To answer these questions, we go to an interesting statement made by the Lord in 1 Samuel 16:7, as the people of Israel anticipated the next king of Israel after Saul had been deposed by God (cf. 1 Sam. 15:23). While King Saul had the external features of a king - handsome, broad, and tall, the next king would be different in his physical disposition (1 Sam. 16:12,18). God then said in defining Saul's successor: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord sees not as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord look on the heart (mind)." The message was clear: it's not how a person looks that matters to Him, but what is on the inside. And in the case of David, his mental strength and constancy were superior than any physical feature.

In the same vein, Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees with this same message: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. You blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also...for you are like whited sepulchers

which indeed appear beautiful outward, but within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness...you appear outwardly appear righteous, but with you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (vss. 25-29).

It's not what is on the outside that counts, but within. Therefore, the external features of spirituality, such as dressing up for services, being faithful in our attendance, talking niceties at services, and attending various church functions, doesn't concern God. What He deems important is whether our mind is pure and holy, free from dissimulation (cf. Matt. 7:21-23). Unfortunately, in religion, there are many pretenders who merely look the part, but inwardly are far from God. What a travesty it will be for these deceivers to be rejected by God when they thought they were in good standing with Him. The only way to avoid this mistaken identity scenario is to be honest with ourselves by acknowledging potential sin in our life, which then leads to real change. The point of Jesus was, the scribes and Pharisees were so deluded and arrogant, their spiritual efforts did not account for anything. God looks within, not on what is portrayed outside. The question is, do you put more attention on the outside than you do your inner man? May God be praised!

Give Me a Scorned Church!

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon is today after our morning service. Everyone, especially our visitors, are invited to stay and fellowship with us. We'll be having a chili cook-off today.

The men's dinner will be on January 26, while the ladies get-together will be on January 28. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

Mark your calendars for our 28th Annual Lectures, Feb. 19-21: *The Superiority of the Christian System*. Brochures are in the foyer. Please begin to spread the word and invite family, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances.

YOUTH

The elders are looking for a host family for January's devotional. See brother Hipp if you can help.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for January 22. More details to follow.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

Wow! What a request - give me a scorned church! In view of the type of church (people) God respects and demands, you'd be surprised that He delights in a church that is rejected with contempt. But what does this mean?

To be rejected with contempt means you have done something that has upset others, even to the point of intense dislike. But what about the church as mentioned in the Bible do people disrespect and hold contemptuous? This is revealed in 1 Peter 4:1: *"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin."* In other words, when Christ stood up for and lived according to truth, instead of being honored for it, he suffered scorn. Likewise, when Christ's people follow in his steps, standing for and living out truth, they too will suffer scorn (Jn. 15: 18-20). So if we're not disliked and spoken ill against, then we're not standing for and living according to truth. This is exactly what Paul noted in 1 Corinthians 4:9-14 to the church in Corinth.

In verses 9-10, he said, *"For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles...as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, angels, and men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are honored, but we are despised."* Paul acknowledged that the work

he was called to do, to preach, and stand up for and live according to the truth would come with a costly price - *"we both hunger, thirst, are naked, are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place"* (v. 12). Also, in their laboring for the Lord they were *"reviled, persecuted, defamed, made as the filth of the world, and were the offscouring of all things..."* (v. 13). Paul then said, *"I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you"* (v. 14).

The point is clear. God's expects and demands His church (people) to preach, stand up for, and live according to his truth daily. And in so doing, instead of people embracing our efforts, we'll be demonized, talked about, and disrespected; we'll be a scorned church!

So when we stand up for the truth of there being only one true church, which preaches one truth, and lives according to that truth, the false religionists and non-believers will begin to mock, belittle, and scorn our efforts. But this is exactly the type of reaction we should expect when it comes to standing up for what is right. So give me a scorned church, because this means they're doing their job as God commanded. These have rejected feelings (emotions), rites, and traditions of men. If we're not talked about and suffering, then we're not doing it like it should be done. May God be praised! **Bro. G. Rodriguez**

WHAT SAITH THE LORD?

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).

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

Always Determine To Do The Right Thing

The Hebrew writer, in speaking of Jesus said, "Though he was a son, yet learned obedience by the things suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation" (Heb. 5:8-9). Jesus was "tempted in all points like as we are" (Heb. 4:15), but he never sinned. Ignorance, unconcern, threats, betrayal and rejection could not make Jesus succumb to temptation. He always did what was right! The key, I believe, is found in two passages: "Father, not my will, but thine, be done...For Christ pleased not himself" (Lk. 22:42; Rom. 15:3). When Jesus said, "I am come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him that sent me" (Jn. 6:38), those were not just words; he lived them (i.e., conduct and character).

Do you know that God has a purpose for you? When he placed Adam in the Garden of Eden, God told him to "dress the garden and keep it" (Gen. 2:15). It wasn't that God couldn't do it; Adam needed the "doing" that would fulfill his purpose. Wise king Solomon wrote of his search for the meaning of life, then summed it up: "Hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). That hasn't changed. God told Noah to build an ark, told Abraham to go to a strange country, told Moses to go back and lead Israel out of Egypt. God didn't give those commands for His good, but for theirs!

Is you would rid yourself of anxiety, you must allow Christ to be Lord of your life, doing what He wants you to do. "As children of obedience...You have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth" (1 Pet. 1:14,21). This is what John writes, also: "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous" (1 Jn. 5:3). Try to offer half a life to Him, and anxieties multiply. It just won't work.

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

DEACON

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1
Tim. 3: 7-12)

Brother Raul Baltierra
(210) 843-9730

GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 1 Tim.
4:6; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

Brother Gabriel Rodriguez
(210)315-4453



January 10

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Guillen*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *G. Rodriguez; J. Mokry; J. Mora; R. Trevino*

Scripture: *Isaiah 53:10-12*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *N. Esenowo*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *S. Hernandez*
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *J. Guillen; A. Maldonado*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *B. Dorries*

After Greeter: *B & B Dorries*
 Greeter/Usher: *T. Mayces*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes
 Juanita Mahan
 Richard Rodriguez
 Rina White
 Joe Guillen
 Sarah Cannon
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)
 Ina Dial
 David Sudhoff
 Elijah Sudhoff
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)
 Caral O'Banon
 Joe Rendon (brother of Rosemary Rendon) - fighting high blood pressure and needs kidney transplant

BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes Johna Dorries
 Abigail Reyes Graciola Anderson
 Lydia Cowan George Jackson
 Briana Nieves Sonny Cary
 Elwyn Hipp Gwen Parker

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JANUARY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *Hernandez*
 Preparing Lord's Supper: *Baltierra*
 Auditorium Service Duties: *Baltierra*
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room *Baltierra*
 Brother in charge of services: *R. Baltierra*

AM Theme:
"Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms
 PM Theme:
Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

AM Sermon:
Psalm 35
PM Sermon:
Challenges to Godly Conduct and Character (2)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 6: *R. Trevino*
 January 13: *W. Holmes*
 January 20: *G. Rodriguez*

FOR THE RECORD

January 3

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 54
 Sunday AM Worship 65
 Sunday PM Worship 42
 Wednesday Bible Study 38
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,450.00/ \$1,700.19**

Weekly Bible Readers: 8/21 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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