

From the Pastor:

The next section of James (James 3:1-12) contains another fairly lengthy discussion. But, this time the discussion concerns the use of the tongue (i.e. our words).

The passage begins with an exhortation to those who are teachers (especially to those who may seek to become teachers). Being a teacher of God's word bears with it a heavy responsibility. A teacher of God's truth must indeed teach God's truth and not his own ideas.

In the list of qualifications that Paul gave to Titus concerning whom to appoint as elders (Titus 1:5-9), Paul lists "holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict." (Titus 1:9) Those who are to be teachers of God's Word must be diligent, careful and committed to teach God's Word. We are to do as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:2, "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

We are to teach as we have been taught. However, this does not remove our responsibility to make sure that what we are being taught is indeed the truth of God's Word. This is what the Jews in Berea did. Acts 17:11 records, "These were more fair-minded than those [the Jews] in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Paul exhorted the brethren in Thessalonica in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 to "Test all things; hold fast what is good."

However, once we have proven the truth, we must be teaching only what the truth is. We must realize that God holds teachers accountable for what they teach. As James said, "we shall receive a stricter judgment."

Teaching the truth is one aspect of the use of the tongue—one use of words. The rest of the passage (James 3:2-12) deals with learning to be circumspect (careful) with our tongues (words). However, this is a challenge that we must all work on. James said in verse 2, "If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body." None of us are perfect (or, anywhere near perfect). But, we must be continually learning to change and overcome.

Controlling the tongue is important to becoming a Christian (becoming like Jesus Christ). Paul said in Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

We get into trouble when we begin "wagging" our tongues before we think. As a result we may kindle a great fire as James pointed out in verses 5-6.

The problem of wrong words begins in the heart and mind. Jesus addressed this in Matthew 12:33-37. Please read the entire passage. But, verse 34 concludes with "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." And, this passage ends with "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

This is the lesson that James is teaching in James 3:1-12.

| | Victoria | Corpus Christi | Harlingen |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Sunset Today in: | 5:49pm | 5:53m | 5:58pm |
| Sunset Friday 1-18 | 5:54pm | 5:58pm | 6:02pm |

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



January 12, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: DVD

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Mark Monsivais
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermon: In Accord
Sermon: Michael Watts

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Proverbs 1:7

Announcements and Schedule

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| Sabbath 1/12 | Regular times and locations for all congregations. |
| Sabbath 1/19 | Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen. |

Regional Teen Formal: March 2, 2019 – Spring-time in Tokyo

There's a grand event in the making, and we hope you plan to come! Please register now; don't wait or you might be late! The Sabbath service will be held at 1 PM at our normal meeting location, Unity of Dallas, but the dinner and dance will take place at a new location this year: The Westin Stonebriar Hotel & Golf Club in Frisco. All teens: Go to <http://www.cogwadallas.org/teens> to register for the dinner and dance. Also, PARENTS, if you have a graduating senior in your family, please refer to the senior questionnaire link at the website for the senior acknowledgements that evening. REGISTER ASAP - Registration deadline is February 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Hansen at rachel.hansen@sbcglobal.net.

Summer FI Continuing Education Seminar:

The faculty and administration of Foundation Institute are excited to announce the dates of this summer's FI Continuing Education seminar. These weeklong seminars held each summer in the FI classroom have been very successful in providing an additional opportunity for biblical education for those who are able to attend. A number of people plan to return every year for the classes and fellowship.

This year we will be offering one seminar in the new building, which is in McKinney, Texas. The seminar will be five days long, beginning on Monday morning and ending on Friday afternoon. The dates are July 15-19, 2019. The seminar will offer 29 one-hour classes taught by a variety of instructors and administrators from the headquarters office. The cost for the classes is \$75 per person or \$125 per couple. As in the past, we plan to provide a light lunch each day at no additional charge.

Because of the move to the new building, we will not open registration until the month of February. This will allow us to ascertain the capacity of the classroom and know how many students we can accept, prior to registration. We will make a follow-up announcement explaining the registration procedure shortly after the office move is complete.

Thank you for your interest and support for Foundation Institute.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be February 2. There will be no potluck in January.

Corpus Christi – 4th Annual Goose Island State Park Campout. February 22nd – 24th. There will be no local services that Sabbath in Corpus Christi; Sabbath services will be at the campout.