

From the Pastor

The next two injunctions by Jesus in Matthew 5 deal with principles that were given to ancient Israel because of their unconverted (non-spirit led condition).

The first (“eye for eye and tooth for tooth”) was meant to deter the Israelites from seeking to do harm to their fellow Israelite. If an Israelite would in some way harm his neighbor, he could expect the same to be done to him. One place that this principle was given is in Exodus 21:23-25 “But if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.”

The second (“hate your enemy”) was a principle God gave in relation to the treatment of certain nations. This principle is drawn from Deuteronomy 23:3-6. Verse 6 records, “You shall not seek their peace nor their prosperity all your days forever.”

In the first case Jesus’ words were to explain that a Christian does not seek retribution for evil done to him. In other words, we should never seek to hurt others when we are hurt in some way. This is a matter of our attitude (or, spirit of mind).

However, this does not mean that it is wrong to seek fair treatment (if we do not have a wrong attitude in doing so). Paul sought fair treatment when put into prison. The entire account is in Acts 16:16-40. Paul’s statement in verse 37 gives his view of the fair treatment that was his right. “But Paul said to them, ‘They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out.’” We see here that Paul did not seek to hurt the individuals involved. He only sought just treatment.

The second case further shows the attitude God wants to see in His children. God wants to see in us a spirit of love and not revenge. Jesus said, “love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven...”

Paul expressed this attitude well in Romans 12:19-21, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Be on guard here as well. Our attitude must not be to do good to our enemy so we can heap coals of fire on his head. That is not from an attitude of loving our enemy.

God, the Father, is perfect in love. It is His love (and His Son’s love) that we must be growing in to inherit life in their family.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:56pm	6:00pm	6:04pm
Sunset Friday 1-26	6:01pm	6:04pm	6:09pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



January 20, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Split Sermon: Mark Monsivais

Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Split Sermon: Orlando Mascorro

Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Romans 12:1-2

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 1/20	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 1/27	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria. Mr. Moody will speak in Corpus Christi. There will be a DVD sermon from Mr. Britt Taylor in San Antonio. Mr. Chapman will speak in Victoria. Harlingen will have a DVD sermon.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly will be February 3, 2018.

Harlingen Pot Luck: The Harlingen congregation will have a potluck on the Sabbath of February 3rd after services.

Corpus Christi Bible Study: The Corpus Christi congregation will have a Bible Study and Brown Bag Social on the Sabbath of February 17th.

Corpus Christi: Goose Island campout March 16-18.

Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education:

Our thanks to those who have so enthusiastically supported the Foundation Institute Continuing Education Seminars. When registration opened at 10 this past Sunday morning, the June session reached capacity in 3 minutes and the July session was filled in 46 minutes. As it stands now, we will have participants from 17 different states, as well as from Barbados and Chile. We currently have 21 people on the waiting list, so there is little possibility that any who register now will be able to attend this year. We hope that those who were not accepted this year will be able to attend next year when we will be in our new facility and have room for a few more.

From Jim Franks:

After months of work on drawings and plans, we are now ready to begin the actual construction of our new office building! We obtained the final permit today (Wednesday, Jan. 17) from the city of McKinney and are ready to get underway with the excavation! We have set the formal groundbreaking for Monday morning, Jan. 22, at 9 a.m.

This is a true milestone for the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, and we are excited to take this next step. Thank you for your prayers and support. We will keep everyone informed of our progress. Please go to members.cogwa.org/new-office/ each Friday afternoon for the latest update on the building. We will be posting pictures and video of the groundbreaking next week. We anticipate the completion of the building by late summer or early fall.