

***From the Pastor:***

Another cycle of God's feasts has been completed. This was my 51st cycle since I went to Ambassador College in August of 1968. Since I had been baptized on February 18, 1968, the Passover of that year was my first feast. That cycle was completed with the Last Great Day (the 8th day as it is recorded in Leviticus 23) on October 14 of that year.

Of course there are many who have been observing God's feasts much longer than that. Mr. Blackwell, who coordinated the Feast of Tabernacles in Rapid City, has kept 65 Feasts of Tabernacles. He started keeping the feasts of God as a young boy. What is encouraging to see is his continued zeal for keeping God's feasts.

I hope that is the spirit that is still in us all. The Church of God will suffer loss if too many of God's people begin approaching the feasts of God as a mere routine and not as what they actually are—the revelation of the steps in God's plan for offering the knowledge of salvation (how to become the very sons and daughters of God) to all of humankind.

Sadly it is a human trait (failing) that such important observances (since we repeat them every year) can too easily become rote (something that is done without understanding or thought). Keeping the Sabbath as well as God's annual feasts can begin to be observed so much out of habit that we lose sight of their incredible meaning and importance.

In describing the Church at Ephesus the apostle John under God's inspiration wrote words of warning and exhortation in Revelation 2:4, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

The flame of first love will change but it should not die out. First love should mature and deepen. First love will not be continually exciting. For example, the newness of the relationship with your wife (husband) to be was thrilling. Your heart leapt whenever you saw her (him) and learned the details of her (his) life. That type of love cannot continue for sooner or later you learn about them. Plus we start seeing warts and not just all of the beauty (handsomeness). But, real love should grow and deepen (despite the warts).

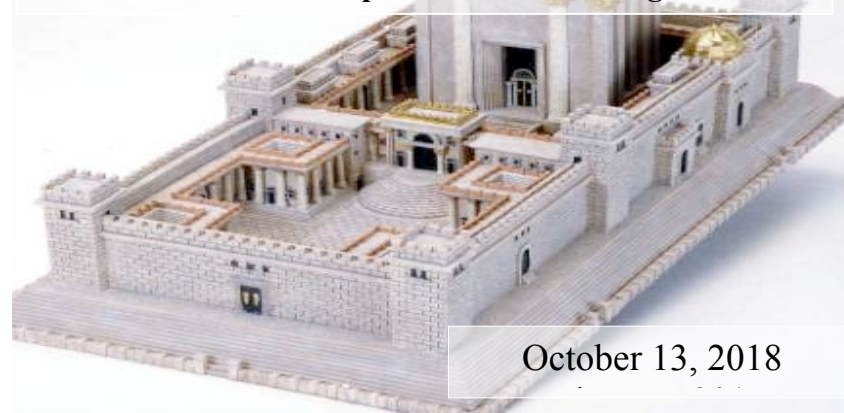
With God's truth the first love is there since the knowledge of the truth is all new. Excitement occurs as we learn each new truth (new to us). That initial excitement cannot always be there since, for example, as time goes on keeping God's Sabbath and feasts is not something new.

However, as we grow spiritually, the depth of the understanding of the reality of God (coming to truly know God) and the knowledge of His plan will deepen and be very moving.

The closer we are to God, the deeper our love for God and His plan and purpose will be. Please study to grow in the depth of love for God and His ways.

# Church of God South Texas

## Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



October 13, 2018

### Victoria

*Sermonette:* Nick Ragusin  
*Sermon:* DVD

### Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* Arnold Mendez  
*Sermon:* Steve Moody

### Harlingen

*Sermonette:* DVD  
*Sermon:* Michael Watts

"O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure."

Psalm 6:1

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
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Sunset Today in:	7:01pm	7:03pm	7:06pm
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Sunset Friday 10-19	6:55pm	6:57pm	7:00pm
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## Announcements and Schedule

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<b>Sabbath 10/13</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 10/20</b>	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.

### **Winter Camp:**

Camper and staff applications are being accepted for Winter Camp in Wisconsin. The staff application deadline is Nov. 1, and the camper application deadline is Nov. 15. Camp will run from Wednesday, Dec. 26, to Tuesday, Jan. 1. For more information, please visit the COGWA Youth Camps website: [camps.cogwa.org](http://camps.cogwa.org).

### **Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember**

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#### **DALLAS GOLF SCRAMBLE – OCTOBER 14**

The Dallas congregation is hosting an 18-hole golf scramble Sunday, October 14th, 2018 with an 8 am “shotgun start” at The Traditions Course at Watters Creek (7201 Chase Oaks Blvd, Plano, TX 75025). The cost is \$70.00 per golfer, which includes green fee, cart, range balls, prizes, as well as a Burger Buffet immediately following your round. If you’d like to play but not enjoy lunch, the price drops to \$57.00 per person. Golfers of all skill sets are invited and encouraged to join us for what will surely be a fun filled, mildly stressful, exciting day! You can form your own foursome or request to be placed on a team. If interested, please let Aaron Greider ([aarongreider@yahoo.com](mailto:aarongreider@yahoo.com) / 561-707-2592) know as soon as possible, as we must reach a minimum number to make the event happen.

#### **DALLAS FAMILY CAMPOUT – October 26-28**

**HARLINGEN, TX** — We will have the "Blessing of the Little Children" on the Sabbath of October 20<sup>th</sup>.