

**From the Pastor:**

1 Peter 1:8-9 are a continuation of the sentence and then the thought that Peter began in verse 6. Picking up the passage in verse 7 we read, “that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls [lives].”

The sentence ends “whom [Jesus Christ] having not seen you love.” If we are truly Christian – brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, we will love Him. But, please do not equate what God says here through Peter with what the churches of this world say and ask. They ask, “Do you love Jesus?” I doubt most know what loving Jesus entails. Actually no one knows unless they have access to God’s Holy Spirit.

Perhaps some say that they love Jesus because “He died for our sins.” That statement is true (“He died for our sins”) when it is rightly understood. But, how many people rightly understand what Jesus did. Does the fact that Jesus was slain by the shedding of His blood to purge our sins impress upon them the fact that they need to stop living as they please and to begin living as God reveals? No. In order to live as God reveals a person must have access to God’s Holy Spirit. And, we know God is limiting those who have access to His Spirit today.

To truly love Jesus (and God Most High) we must have a commitment of heart to obey God in the letter and the spirit of the law (1John 5:3).

Today most churches teach that we are under grace, and, that we are to live by faith. By this they mean obedience to law is no longer required or expected. In other words, we don’t need to obey the law anymore since we live by faith and are under God’s grace. This is not a new idea. Paul had to deal with this idea among the Gentile people with which he dealt. He said in Romans 6:1-2, “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

Then Paul explains that baptism is a symbolic death. He wrote, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death...” (Romans 6:4) He then wrote, “knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.” (Romans 6:6-7) Paul then emphasizes his point in verse 12, “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.”

At a valid baptism our past sins are forgiven – purged – washed away by the blood of Christ. However, the habits of mind that produced those past sins are sadly still very much alive. Therefore the Christian life entails using the power of God’s Holy Spirit to truly love God by obeying Him in faith so that sin does not reign in our lives. If this is how we live the rest of our lives, the end result will be the salvation of our lives.

This will be the last personal until after the Feast. We pray you all will have a spiritually uplifting Feast of Tabernacles.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:10pm	7:12pm	7:14pm
Sunset Tuesday 10-8	7:07pm	7:09pm	7:11pm

# Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



October 5, 2019  
&  
Atonement Oct. 9, 2019

**October 5**

**Victoria**

Sermon: DVD

**Corpus Christi**

Sermonette:  
Gabe Dempsey

Sermon: Steve Moody

**Harlingen**

Sermonette: In Accord  
Sermon: DVD

**Atonement**

**Victoria**

Sermon: Jim Chapman

**Corpus Christi**

Sermonette:  
Mark Monsivais

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

**Harlingen**

Sermonette: Michael Watts  
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 14:34

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 10-5</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Atonement 10-9</b>	One service at 10:00 a.m. in Victoria at the regular location. Mr. Chapman will conduct services. One service in San Antonio at 2:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Mr. Moody will conduct services. One service at 3:00 p.m. in Corpus Christi at the regular location. Mr. Mendez will conduct services. One service in Harlingen at the regular location at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Mendez will conduct services.
<b>Sabbath 10-12</b>	There will be no services at any of the locations. There will be services at 10: a.m. in Kerrville, TX.

### From Jim Franks:

As you know, Hurricane Dorian recently tore through the Caribbean and then up the East Coast of the U.S., all the way to Newfoundland in Canada. There was widespread damage and loss of life. There are still more than 2,000 people missing in the Bahamas.

Several have inquired about donating to help the brethren in the areas that were most affected. They have asked if we have a special fund to help the victims of Hurricane Dorian. In COGWA, we have a standard International Fund that was begun several years ago in the wake of the typhoon that struck the Philippines. It is more efficient for us to maintain one central fund to assist the brethren whenever there is a storm or other natural disaster, rather than setting up unique, restricted funds after each incident. Most recently, we sent funds to Kenya to help the brethren there in wake of a severe drought that has led to food shortages.

If you would like to make a donation specifically for areas outside the U.S. that have special needs, such as those affected by Hurricane Dorian, you may send donations to the "International Fund," and they will be used to assist our brethren whenever we have these disasters. You can donate online by using the drop-down menu on COGWA's donation page and selecting the entry for "International Fund." Or you may send checks to the regular COGWA donation address and designate on your check that the funds are to go to the "International Fund."

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Pot Luck:** The next potluck will be on November 2.

**Day of Atonement: Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

**Noah' Ark-Early Man Seminars:** Corpus Christi will be hosting Noah's Ark and Early Man Seminars. The seminars will be on the Sabbath of November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Noah's Ark seminar will take place from 10 am - 12 noon. There will be a meal break and the Early Man Seminar will take place from 2-4 pm. Included in the presentations will be a question and answer session. For more information see the announcement link at: <http://corpuschristi.cogwa.org/announcements/>