

From the Pastor:

In James 1:18 contains many concepts. “Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

James begins this sentence with the phrase “Of His own will...” This verse is about what God is doing is His purpose and plan. God’s plan flows from His will—what His desire is—what He has determined to do. Paul spoke to this truth of God’s plan when he said in 1 Timothy 1:9, “Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, *but according to His own purpose* and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death, and brought life and immortality [Greek – *aphtharsia* – incorruption] to light through the gospel.”

James then says, “Of His own will He brought us forth...” He “brought us forth” is only used by James in this letter. The Greek is “*apokueo*” which literally means to “give birth to.” James uses the word twice. We find “*apokueo*” also in James 1:15, “sin, when it is full-grown, *brings forth* death.”

As we know God is seeking to give birth to children. That process of birth to new life begins with baptism. After baptism we are to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). We are to be “new creatures” (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God’s will that we have access to this new life through the power of His Spirit.

God has accomplished this calling and birth to new life through “the word of truth...”

As we know that in order for anyone to understand the purpose of life, an individual must be called by God through His Spirit to be able to understand the spiritual truth of His Word (John 6:44; 1 Corinthians 2:7-10, 14).

God the Father, according to His own purpose and will, has made this selection as to whom to call in this age. This is what Romans 8:28-30 explains.

James then records that this calling is for the purpose of becoming “a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” The Jews and the members of the early church understood what firstfruits were (Exodus 23:16; 34:22). They knew that the spring harvest was the harvest of firstfruits of the year’s harvest. James explained to the members of the Church of God that our calling is to be a kind of the firstfruits of those called into the family of God.

Each phrase in James 1:18 would take an entire sermon to cover in detail. There is a great deal in this verse dealing with our calling and inheritance—God’s purpose.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:37pm	5:40pm	5:44pm
Sunset Friday 11-16	5:34pm	5:37pm	5:41pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



November 10, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: HQ - DVD

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: DVD-In Accord

Sermon: Orlando Mascorro

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...”
Ephesians 4:1

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 11/10	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 11/17	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.

Winter Family Weekend:

Friday evening, December 21 through Tuesday night, December 25 in Louisville, KY. Please see Fact Sheet on the information table.

Raise Funds for FOI While You Shop:

Foundation Outreach International has partnered with four major companies to raise funds. Take advantage of the programs described below and “do a world of good” while you shop!

AmazonSmile: Support FOI when you shop on Amazon. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Just login to your Amazon account, search for AmazonSmile, and match “Foundation Outreach International” to your account.

Shutterfly: It’s easy to support Foundation Outreach International while preserving your memories. Shutterfly enables users to create personalized photo gifts with their own photos and text—gifts such as photo books, home decor and much more.

Simply go to the unique FOI.ShutterflyStorefront.com and then click Shutterfly. Each time you make a purchase through our storefront, Shutterfly will donate 13 percent of the total sale directly to Foundation Outreach International.

Foundation Outreach International Gallery: Shopping the FOI Gallery, FOI-Gallery.pixels.com, allows you to browse through images from professional and seasoned photographers and images from the projects we sponsor. These images can be turned into 25-plus different products, ranging from greeting cards to canvas prints, phone cases, throw pillows and more. Proceeds from your purchases go to support the projects of Foundation Outreach International.

Kroger: Supporting Foundation Outreach International when you shop at local Kroger grocery stores is easy. Simply enroll in Kroger Community Rewards online at Kroger.com and link your Kroger Reward Card. Then pick “Foundation Outreach International” as your preferred nonprofit organization. FOI is an approved recipient of Community Rewards in five U.S. regions. Use the search feature when linking your Rewards card to

find out if FOI can benefit from purchases in your area.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

The Austin Volleyball Weekend Nov. 10 and 11:

Sabbath Services – Norris Conference Center, 2525 W Anderson Ln #365, Austin, TX at 2:30 p.m.

Adult Volleyball Games – Sat. night and Sun., Round Rock Sports Center (same place as last year)—no food can be brought into the facility.

Teen Activity – Sat. night at Round Rock Sports Center, \$5 per teen, scavenger hunt, King of the Court Volleyball and snacks.

Teen Volleyball Games - Sun. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Round Rock Sports Center.

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be December 1.

Corpus Christi: There will be a “brown bag” meal and FOT photo sharing after services this Sabbath (11/10).