

From the Pastor:

The message and advice of James 1:19-20 is very straight forward, but not followed as often as it should be. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

These verses contain three phrases of instruction—exhortation—and one observation. The three phrases of instruction are (1) swift to hear, (2) slow to speak and (3) slow to wrath. These instructions are easily stated. Each can be expressed in three words. Each also expresses an important point of wisdom. The question is: “Do we actually seek to practice these three exhortations?”

Are we “swift to hear?” This applies to listening to instruction, or, perhaps, listening to a person’s feelings or point of view. Too many don’t listen to other’s needs (feelings). Also, too many don’t listen to instruction. Too many simply trust in their own understanding, views or opinions. We can’t help others unless and until we actually listen with a desire to learn what they need. Further, we can’t grow unless we are willing to listen to advice or instruction.

Proverbs 1:5 records, “A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.” A wise man is willing to hear and learn.

A wise man is also “slow to speak.” Proverbs 10:19 states, “In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.” Too many simply like to hear themselves speak. They are thinking of the next thing to say instead of listening to what concerns the other person has. Such a person also does not believe they need instruction. They believe they know what they need already.

Further, a wise person thinks before he speaks or acts. Therefore, a wise person is “slow to wrath.” Proverbs 16:32 records, “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” Ecclesiastes 7:9 states, “Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.” Our wrath and anger seldom, if ever, produce good results. Angry words generally come from a spirit of self. The self has been infringed upon—our activities have been trespassed upon. What we have been doing has been interrupted so we get angry.

So are we truly seeking to do what these phrases say?

James 3:1-12 has a great deal to say on this subject of governing our words—tongues.

James 1:20 clearly states that “the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

The question each of us needs to answer is: Are we really concerned about listening when we need to, not speaking when we should be listening and controlling our anger? If so, we are indeed pursuing the righteousness of God.

| | Victoria | Corpus Christi | Harlingen |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Sunset Today in: | 6:33pm | 6:37m | 6:41pm |
| Sunset Friday 11-23 | 6:31pm | 6:35pm | 6:39pm |



Victoria

Sermonette: Steve Ruiz
Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: HQ DVD

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”
Ephesians 3:20-21

Announcements and Schedule

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| Sabbath 11/17 | Regular times and locations for all congregations. |
| Sabbath 11/24 | Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Palmer will be in San Antonio. |

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.

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

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

Corpus Christi – Will have a brown bag social and a Bible Study on the Sabbath of Dec. 1st.

Harlingen - Will have a Bible Study and covered dish social on the Sabbath of Dec. 15th.