

***From the Pastor***

The outline of prayer that Jesus gave can be found in two of the four gospels—Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. Jesus gave this in response to His disciples' request "teach us to pray." Sadly instead of this being used as a guide to the content of our prayers many have turned these words into a vain repetition. We should use these words of Jesus as a guide for the content of our own prayers.

One important key to the effectiveness of prayer is that our minds should be fully engaged while we are praying. In other words, our minds should not wander while we are conversing with our Father. As a result we should understand what we are saying and its importance to our Father, others and ourselves.

Do we realize what we are asking when we come to that part of prayer that relates to God's kingdom coming? For God's kingdom to come humanity must come to the point where Jesus Christ must return and intervene or no human flesh would be saved alive. This is the essence of Moffat's translation of Matthew 24:22 "Had not those days been cut short, not a soul would be saved alive; however, for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short."

When we are praying for God's kingdom to come, we are asking for God to hasten the day when the greatest trial this world of mankind has ever seen will take place! We know we want Jesus to return to restore God's rule to this earth. But, we must ask ourselves are we close enough to God to be able to face this time of trial in faith—trusting in God that we will have the strength to face death and not turn from loving and obeying Him.

Knowing God and then trusting in God's promises is the essence of faith. This is what is written in Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is; and the He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

How did Paul describe the foundation of Abraham's faith? This is found in Romans 4:20-21 "He [Abraham] did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."

How well do we know the true and living God? What is our relationship with God like? How we respond to the events of the future depends on our answers to those questions.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	5:31pm	5:35pm	5:40pm
Sunset Friday 12-16	5:33pm	5:37pm	5:41pm

# Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 10, 2016

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Jim Chapman

## Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* DVD  
*Sermon:* Steve Moody

## Harlingen

*Sermonette:* Orlando Mascorro  
*Sermon:* Michael Watts

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul [life]."

Deuteronomy 10:12

## Announcements and Schedule

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<b>Sabbath 12/10</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
<b>Sabbath 12/17</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

**From Mark Winner, coordinator, Winter Family Weekend:**

We are once again offering a webcast from the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville on the Sabbath of Dec. 24. This webcast will start at 2:15 p.m. Eastern time, with services beginning at 2:30 p.m. The webcast link will be available at COGWA.TV prior to Sabbath. If you have the ability to connect to COGWA.TV and would like to connect to the webcast, please see Mr. Moody for the password.

**From Larry Salyer:**

Beginning on December 10, the Houston South Sabbath service will begin at 1:00 pm. We will keep this schedule until the spring time change unless otherwise announced.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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**San Antonio Potluck:** Due to room availability the next potluck is being rescheduled for December 17. After the potluck, there will be a blanket “preparation” party to assemble “no sew” children’s blankets to be donated to a San Antonio children’s charity for abused children.

**Food Bank Donations:**

The San Antonio congregation will be collecting canned goods to be donated to the local San Antonio Food Bank. This is the last week for those donations.

**Corpus Christi Bible Movie and Chili night:** On Friday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> the Corpus Christi congregation will be having a Bible Movie and Chili night at the home of Arnold and Janie Mendez. The meal will begin at 7 PM and the movie will be shown after the meal. A biblically based movie or documentary will be shown. If you have any movie suggestions please

see Mr. Mendez. Mr. Mendez will provide the chili we need volunteers to bring the side dishes and desserts. Please see Janie Mendez to volunteer or for a food assignment.