

**From the Pastor:**

1 Peter 1:22 reads, "Since you have purified your souls [lives] in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart..."

The first phrase says a great deal. "You have purified your [lives] in obeying the truth through the Spirit."

The verb "to purify" is from the Greek word "hag-nid'-zo" which means according to Danker's Lexicon "to cause to be morally pure." We see it used in James 4:8, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners: and purify [hagnidzo] your hearts you double-minded." We also see it used in 1 John 3:3, "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies [hagnidzo] himself, just as He is pure."

If you remember the heart is the seat of conviction, commitment, and motivation. If our motives are pure, then our lives will also be pure. A pure life comes from being motivated (having a commitment) to use God's Spirit to live by God's truth – to obey the truth.

God's truth has been under assault from God's Adversary from the time Lucifer began elevating his own ideas and opinions above those of his Creator. Human ego is extremely susceptible to Satan's influence to do what is right in one's own eyes.

The apostle John was inspired to write in John 17:17, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." Spiritual truth is only what God says it is. When contending with Satan in the wilderness Jesus responded to Satan when Satan told Him to make the stones bread, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

However, following Satan's subtle influence and the pattern of his example, man develops his own ideas and says they come from God or the Bible. We must not have preconceived ideas and then look for scriptures that support those. We must study the entirety of the Bible on any particular subject and then see what the Bible (the Word of God) teaches and supports. And, when we do that (seeking to learn from God), God through His Spirit will open our minds to see His truth and our lives can be purified by His truth.

This is also how we can differentiate between teachers of truth and teachers of error (teachers of their own ideas). This is what the Bereans did. Acts 17:11 records, "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Obeying God is how we love God (1 John 5:3). Real love for God must be first. Only if we have real love for God will we be able to truly know how to love others. (Matthew 22:36-40)

|                     | <b>Victoria</b> | <b>Corpus Christi</b> | <b>Harlingen</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Sunset Today in:    | 5:32pm          | 5:36pm                | 5:40pm           |
| Sunset Friday 12-20 | 5:34pm          | 5:38pm                | 5:43pm           |

# Church of God South Texas

**Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



December 14, 2019

## Victoria

Sermonette: Gabe Dempsey  
Sermon: Jim Chapman

## Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Jerod Brunick  
Sermon: Steve Moody

## Harlingen

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez  
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure with trouble."

Proverbs 15:16

## Announcements and Schedule

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Sabbath 12-14</b> | Regular times and locations for all congregations.  |
| <b>Sabbath 12-21</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. |

WFW Announcement:

Winter Family Weekend 2019 is just around the corner, and we are excited to announce that registration will open on Monday, Nov. 4! This year, Winter Family Weekend will run from Tuesday evening, Dec. 24, through Saturday night, Dec. 28, and will once again be held at the beautiful Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

Many of the fun activities we have all come to enjoy are once again planned for this year! For most of the activities, it is important we have an accurate count in advance. So, if you plan to attend this year's Winter Family Weekend, please take some time to login to the member portal to register and select the areas you plan to participate in.

For more information, we have provided a fact sheet that details more about the weekend. Also feel free to visit the WFW website (<https://members.cogwa.org/wfw/>) or the COGWA WFW Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/cogwawfw](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cogwawfw)) for updates and additional information.

Please plan to join Nathan Willoughby for this study, "What Is Your Reality?" That's this Friday evening, Nov. 15, at 7 p.m. Central time, for Friday Night Live.

Foundation Institute Applicants: Winter Family Weekend

Are you considering applying to attend Foundation Institute next year? If so, and if you will be attending the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, we'd like to talk with you.

An important part of the admission process for FI is a personal interview with a faculty member. The Winter Family Weekend offers a great opportunity to sit down with a faculty member and discuss what is involved in attending Foundation Institute. The faculty members in attendance are always happy to answer your questions, but we also want to schedule some time to talk personally with each potential applicant. Interviews are casual and usually last 20 to 30 minutes.

If you are attending the Winter Family Weekend and considering applying for Foundation Institute next year, please send a note to [david.johnson@cogwa.org](mailto:david.johnson@cogwa.org) to let us know. Be sure to include your phone number, and we will call or text to arrange a specific time when we can talk.

For those who may not be able to attend the Winter Family Weekend, you may download an application from the Foundation Institute website, ([foundationinstitute.org](http://foundationinstitute.org)) and submit it as soon as it is completed. We'll arrange for an interview with you at another time.

We look forward to hearing from the future graduating class of 2021.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Pot Luck:** The next potluck will be on January 4.

**Corpus Christi & Harlingen Services:** December 28 services will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a live transmission from the WFW in Louisville.

**Harlingen Bible Study:** The Harlingen congregation will be having a Bible Study on the Sabbath of December 21. A covered dish social will follow the study.

**Corpus Christi Bible Study:** The Corpus Christi congregation will be having a Bible Study on the Sabbath of December 21. A brown bag social will follow the study.