

From the Pastor

During this time of year we have a perfect example of people ignoring facts (truths) and choosing to do what they want to do. In the past numerous newspaper articles have been written that clearly point out the origins of many of the customs and traditions that are prevalent at this time of year. Many customs are clearly understood as coming from non-Christian religions and sources; but, such information usually falls on deaf ears. Many people simply do not care.

It is interesting to witness the writings of various scholars and historians who (in an attempt to support certain traditional concepts) choose to either ignore or reason around facts that are verifiable.

For example, we know that December 25 is not the true date of Jesus Christ's birth. The Bible nowhere even alludes to the date of Jesus' birth let alone clearly gives one. All we can conclude is a general time period in "midish" fall. This guess depends on a number of speculations (guesses) concerning the conception of John the Baptist which would require more space than we have here to address that point. However, one point we can clearly conclude is that Jesus was not born December 25 in the "dead of winter".

This fact historians can't deny but try to. The historian Philip Schaff is one of these who try to reason around the facts. The following is a quote from "History of the Christian Church" by Philip Schaff, Volume 1, Apostolic Christianity, A.D. 1-100, page 127.

"The only indication of the season of our Saviour's birth is the fact that the Shepherds were watching their flocks in the field at that time, Luke 2:8. This fact points to any other season rather than winter, and is therefore not favorable to the traditional date, though not conclusive against it. The time of pasturing in Palestine (which has but two seasons, the dry and the wet, or summer and winter) begins according to the Talmudists, in March, and lasts till November, when the herds are brought in from the fields, and kept under shelter till the close of February."

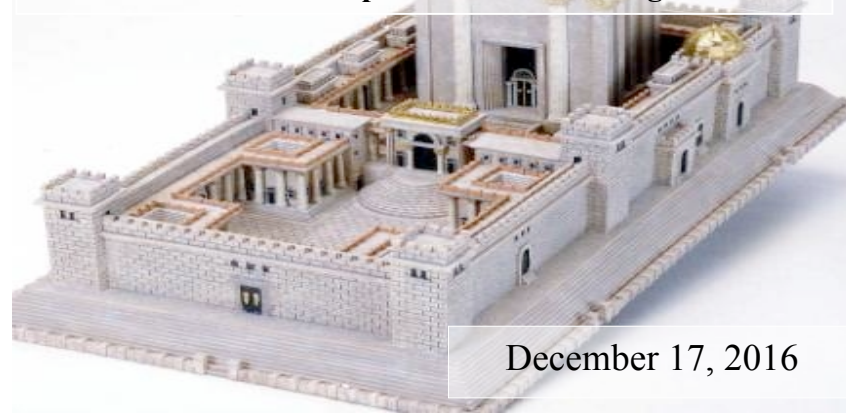
The quote is historical fact. Schaff added this comment to the historical fact "though not conclusive against it." Schaff wanted to support the traditional December 25 date so he tried to insert the idea that the Talmudists words were not the definitive statement on the subject. The Talmudists record that sheep would not be kept in the fields at that time of year, December 25. At that time of year the grass is dead and the sheep would be brought in from the fields and fed until the spring grasses grew again. Schaff does not want to accept this fact.

Schaff, like many people, wishes to believe his own ideas even when facts or truth reveal those ideas to be false. This is at the heart of false religion.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:33pm	5:37pm	5:42pm
Sunset Friday 12-23	5:36pm	5:40pm	5:45pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 17, 2016

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Split Sermon: Mark Monsivais

Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

"He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time."

Daniel 7:25

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 12/17	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 12/24	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Watts and Mr. Gonzalez will present split sermons in 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.

From Ken Treybig, COGWA Youth Camp Coordinator

It's time to dust your boots off and get ready for the 2017 Boot Scoot BBQ Dinner & Silent Auction benefiting COGWA Youth camps. Join us on FEBRUARY 11 at the Grapevine Convention Center. Register online at bootscoot.org. Remember, you must register in advance to attend! Tickets will not be sold at the door. The deadline for registration is January 22. Register by December 22 and receive 5 raffle tickets to spend at Boot Scoot! (Limit 5 per family) Like our Facebook page to receive updates and get a scoop on the silent auction: [facebook.com/bootscootfundraiser](https://www.facebook.com/bootscootfundraiser)

Traveling from outside of DFW? We have rooms reserved at the Grapevine Courtyard Marriott for \$69 per night. Go to <http://ow.ly/YYOL30769ha> to reserve your room today. The deadline to reserve a hotel room is January 19th.

Contact Brenda or Kelli Hogg with any questions at

brenda.hogg@gmail.com and kellihogg@gmail.com.

Friday Night Live--COGWA Bible Study for Young Adults

Join us this Friday evening, Dec. 16, for our "Friday Night Live" webcast Bible study, which will begin at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (7 p.m. Central, 6 p.m. Mountain and 5 p.m. Pacific).

This month's study, presented by Clyde Kilough, is titled, "Burying the Mule!" Truly forgiving other people for past hurts they have inflicted on us—some of them deep and scarring wounds—is one of the toughest challenges a Christian may face. This study will address a number of the questions and spiritual concepts about this issue, such as: Why is forgiveness so hard for humans? What about concepts "forgive and forget" or "forgiving yourself"? Can humans forgive sin? What do you do when you find you just cannot forgive someone? Oh, and about that title ... well, you'll just have to tune in to see what that's all about! That's this Friday night, on Friday Night Live!

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next potluck is scheduled 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.