

**From the Pastor:**

1 Peter 1:23 continues the sentence which began in verse 22 which recorded that “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...” Verse 23 then continues “having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...”

The phrase “born again” occurs only three times in the Scriptures. These are all in the New Testament. The phrase occurs in John 3:3, 7 and here in 1Peter 1:23. However, the Greek is different in John 3:3, 7 than in 1Peter 1:23.

The phrase in John 3:3, 7 is from two Greek words – “gennao anothēn.” “Anothēn” literally means “from above” (Online Bible Greek Lexicon - OBGL) and is so translated in John 3:31 “He that comes ‘from above’ [anothēn] is above all...” So the phrase in John 3:3, 7 is best translated as “born from above.” This is referring to the actual change from flesh and blood to immortal spirit of the righteous as Jesus Christ’s return.

Jesus said in John 3:5, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.” We also know what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:50, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.” Therefore, unless we are actually changed to spirit we cannot enter God’s Kingdom.

This change to spirit is not what Peter is speaking of in 1 Peter 2:23. In this verse “born again” is translated from one Greek word – “anagēnaō.” This word is only used twice. Both occur here in 1 Peter. 1 Peter 1:3 contains the phrase “has begotten us again to a living hope...” “Begotten again” is from “anagēnaō.”

In 1 Peter 2:23 “anagēnaō” is in the present tense which means “the action is occurring in actual time.” (OBGL) Therefore, 1 Peter 2:23 is not referring to a future change from flesh to spirit, but, to what is occurring in the present – the conversion process – the taking on of newness of life once we have received that incorruptible seed of God’s Spirit in us.

Romans 6:4 records, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

And, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Once we have God’s Holy Spirit in us so we can understand God’s truth we have the opportunity and ability to walk in newness of life.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	5:35pm	5:38pm	5:43pm
Sunset Friday 12-27	5:38pm	5:42pm	5:46pm

# Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 21, 2019

## Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

## Corpus Christi

Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

“The way of the slothful [lazy] man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.”

Proverbs 15:19

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 12-21</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 12-28</b>	Services in Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and San Antonio will begin at 1:30 with the live reception from Louisville from the Winter Family Weekend. Services in Victoria will be at the regular time and location.

### 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.

### WFW 2019: Sabbath School

We are currently seeking volunteers to help us with the Sabbath school program at the WFW. If you have experience teaching Sabbath school classes, or you teach at a preschool

or elementary school and would like to teach, we would love to hear from you. We're also looking for volunteers to assist with the classes. The Sabbath school age ranges are for grades K-2, 3-4 and 5-6. We will have classes at both 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on the Sabbath. Please let us know which grade level and time slot you'd prefer. The classes should revolve around this year's WFW theme "The Spirit of Unity." If you can help, please contact Justin Adkins at [justin.adkins@cogwa.org](mailto:justin.adkins@cogwa.org). Thank you!

### Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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

**Corpus Christi and Harlingen Services:** December 28 services will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a live transmission from the WFW in Louisville. Please arrive in time to be in your seats when the transmission begins.

**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.