

From the Pastor

After Jesus said in Matthew 5:20 that our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, He began magnifying the law as Isaiah 42:21 said He would do. He magnified the law by adding the spiritual intent of the law and of other principles to the letter of the law and other instructions that He had previously given to ancient Israel.

Jesus first magnified the sixth commandment when He said, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder’...But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...” (Matthew 5:21-22)

Obedying God from the heart involves so much more than just avoiding the physical act delineated in the law.

As we have said so many times the letter of the law reveals what we are to DO. But, the spirit of the law reveals how we are to BE. The spirit of the law deals with the actual motivation of our heart—what we are thinking as we do what God says to do. Jesus said of the Pharisees that they were like “whitewashed tombs.” They looked good on the outside; but, inside they were full of rotteness and decay. We really must examine the real motivations behind our own actions. Do we seek to exalt the self or please God?

Jesus in Matthew 5:21-22 is saying that what is in our heart (without committing the act) is just as damning as the act.

Anger, of and by itself, is not wrong. God has been stirred to anger on a number of occasions (Exodus 4:14; Number 12:1-9; Numbers 22:22 just to list a few examples). But, to be angry without a just cause (a righteous cause and not a selfish cause) is the spirit of murder. However, to harbor any type of anger can lead to a spirit of bitterness. Paul said in Ephesians 4:26, “‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath.”

The term “Raca” is of Aramaic origin and means “a senseless empty headed man.” In today’s language one would say “air-head.” Raca was “a term of reproach used among the Jews in the time of Christ.” Jesus said such a word (thus such an attitude) justified that person being brought before the council (Greek – sunedrion – used of the Sanhedrin – the great council in Jerusalem – but also used of lesser local councils). We must not have such an attitude toward others.

However, someone saying “you fool” (Greek – moros - the meaning is disputed by some but rendered as “godless” by some) was in danger of Gehenna fire. Whatever, the actual meaning, the penalty of Gehenna fire would indicate that the person is making a value judgment of the individual’s heart which only God can do. I.e. he is taking on a prerogative of God—putting himself in the place of God. No one but God can sit in judgment of a person’s heart—to actually know his motives. This is something we must avoid. We do not know the motives behind a person’s actions even though at times we think we do. Only God can see the issues of the heart. He is judge of a person’s heart.

The bottom line is that unjust anger is the spirit of murder.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:36pm	5:40pm	5:45pm
Sunset Friday 12-27	5:39pm	5:43pm	5:48pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 23, 2017

Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro

Sermon: Michael Watts

“Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”
Philippians 2:14-15

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 12/23	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and Victoria. San Antonio services will begin at 1:15 p.m. for hook up with the services at the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville, KY
Sabbath 12/30	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria. Mr. Monsivais will speak in Corpus Christi. Mr. Hendren will be in San Antonio. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

From Mark Winner, coordinator, Winter Family Weekend:

We are pleased to announce two webcasts from the Winter Family Weekend in Louisville on the weekend of Dec. 22-23. The Friday night Bible study webcast will start at 7:15 p.m. Eastern time, and the Sabbath service webcast will begin at 2:15 p.m. Eastern time. The password will be available from your pastor for those wishing to sign on. The webcast links will be available at cogwa.tv prior to the Sabbath.

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly will be January 6, 2018.

Victoria Pot Luck and Bible Study: We have scheduled a potluck and Bible Study for December 30. Please give any Bible questions you may have to Mr. Moody before the Bible Study.

Foundation Institute, Center for Biblical Education, is pleased to announce two week-long Continuing Education seminars, to be held in the headquarters office in Allen, Texas, during the weeks of June 18-22, 2018, and July 9-13, 2018. Instructors will include David Johnson and Ralph Levy, as well as other headquarters ministers. Details concerning class offerings will be forthcoming.

The cost will be \$75 for an individual student, or \$125 per couple. Registration opens on Sunday, Jan. 14, and we expect the seminars to fill.

If you wish to reserve a place for these exciting seminars, please send an e-mail to registrar David Johnson at david.johnson@cogwa.org.