

From the Pastor:

The next segment of James 2 runs from verse 5 through verse 13. This segment is fairly straight forward. Only a few comments are needed to amplify what is written.

James 2:5 “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world [read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29] to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him [1 John 5:3 shows how we are to show love toward God]?”

James 2:6-7 continues, “But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme [speak reproachfully of or show contempt for] that noble name by which you are called [Christian]?”

Then James 2:8-9 records, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ [the last six of the Ten Commandments] you do well; but if you show partiality [Greek: prosopolepsia – to take or select according to one’s face – thus to judge by appearance], you commit sin and are convicted by the law [God’s holy law – the Ten Commandments] as transgressors.”

James then makes an important point to understand in verse 10. “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” Living contrary to only one point of the law bears the same death penalty as if we were violating all of God’s laws. The wages of any and all sin is death. There is no law that is more or less important.

James explains which particular laws he is referring to in verse 11. “For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.” The law under discussion by James is the law embodied in the Ten Commandments. Why did James only refer to these commands? Were these the only ones the people were to keep? No! These laws were among those that showed how the people should be treating their brethren and fellow man. These were the laws the people had the greatest difficulty remembering to keep. They had a deep understanding for those laws referring to the love of God. But, their selfishness most often was expressed in how they treated each other.

James 2:12, “So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.” The law of liberty refers to the law of God. As we live by God’s laws through the power of God’s Spirit we are free from sin and its penalty – death [read Romans 6:15-23].

The next verse (James 2:13) really speaks according to how God judges. “For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” There are many scriptures that speak of God’s mercy (Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 4:31; 7:9; 1 Kings 8:23; Nehemiah 9:17 just to list a few). Since God is very merciful, we must learn to show the same mercy. We must learn to give room for repentance and change as God does. Isn’t God merciful with us? Doesn’t He give us room and time to change? But, we must also realize that He does expect us to repent and change. Eventually even God’s patience will run out if we show no signs of changing as Israel did (Jeremiah 15:6).

But, as long as there are signs of repentance and change, mercy will triumph over judgment.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:39pm	5:43m	5:48pm
Sunset Friday 1-4	5:43pm	5:47pm	5:52pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 29, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.”

Psalm 11:7

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 12/29	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 1/5	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Tucker will be in Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in San Antonio Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

Regional Teen Formal: March 2, 2019 - Springtime in Tokyo

There's a grand event in the making, and we hope you plan to come! Please register now; don't wait or you might be late! The Sabbath service will be held at 1 PM at our normal meeting location, Unity of Dallas, but the dinner and dance will take place at a new location this year: The Westin Stonebriar Hotel & Golf Club in Frisco. All teens: Go to <http://www.cogwadallas.org/teens> to register for the dinner and dance. Also, PARENTS, if you have a graduating senior in your family, please refer to the senior questionnaire link at the website for the senior acknowledgements that evening. REGISTER ASAP - Registration deadline is February 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Hansen at rachel.hansen@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be February 2. There will be no potluck in January.

Victoria Bible Study & Pot Luck: Sabbath, December 29. Please send by email any questions you may want addressed. Or, you can give them to Mr. Tucker and he will email them to me.

Corpus Christi – 4th Annual Goose Island State Park Campout. February 22nd – 24th. There will be no local services that Sabbath in Corpus Christi; Sabbath services will be at the campout.