

***From the Pastor***

We are now in the throes of the season when most of the “Christian” world celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ supposedly on December 25. We will address this date in the near future. But, most don’t even ask the question “Should the birth of Jesus be celebrated?”

Solomon (the Preacher) recorded something interesting in Ecclesiastes 7:1 “A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.” We understand the last part of the verse (“the day of death than the day of one’s birth”) as we see the meaning of the first part of the verse (“A good name is better than precious ointment”).

One’s “good name” references one’s character—here, the product of one’s godly life. A good name is better than precious ointment. Ointment is from the Hebrew shemen meaning “fat, oil...olive oil.” A fragrant ointment generally had olive oil as a base into which a fragrance was incorporated. That does this verse (Ecclesiastes 7:1 mean? A good name or godly character endures (even to eternal life); whereas, the effects of a precious (fragrant) ointment are only temporary—the fragrance will dissipate.

Thus, a person’s death is better than his birth if he has had a good name (godly character) for his eternal future is sealed. However, at birth one’s end is not yet known.

We celebrate the death of Jesus Christ on the Passover since we know He died fulfilling an important part of His mission—providing the sacrifice needed to purge our sins. At His birth He still had to face living life for His entire life without sin so He could be that spotless sacrifice. He was determined to accomplish His mission (John 4:34); but, He still knew He had to live and die without sin. Not until He died without sin was His mission accomplished.

Further, God commanded us to observe a memorial of Jesus’ death. 1 Corinthians 11:26 records, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” God nowhere commanded His people to celebrate Jesus’ birth. We do not even know the date of His birth. God clearly stated that He wants us to obey His words and not add to or take away from what He commands by injecting our own ideas—doing what is right in our own eyes (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32).

We will cover more on this subject in the near future.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	5:31pm	5:34pm	5:39pm
Sunset Friday 12/ 9	5:30pm	5:34pm	5:38pm

# Church of God South Texas

**Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



December 4, 2016

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Steve Moody

## Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* DVD  
*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

*Sermonette:* Orlando Mascorro  
*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

Deuteronomy 12:32

## Announcements and Schedule

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<b>Sabbath 12/3</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi and Victoria, and Harlingen. San Antonio will meet at the regular time in the Main Auditorium and not the Family Life Center.
<b>Sabbath 12/10</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Jack Hendren will be in San Antonio. Mr. Jim Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon 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.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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**San Antonio Potluck:** Due to room availability the next potluck is being rescheduled 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.

### **Food Bank Donations:**

The San Antonio congregation will be collecting canned goods the next three weeks. The food collected will be donated to the local San Antonio Food Bank.