

From the Pastor:

Today we will continue our study of 1 Peter. We are ready to examine 1 Peter 1:20-21 which read, "He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."

The details of God's plan for having a family of sons and daughters were established before Adam and Eve were created ("before the foundation of the world"). "World" is from the Greek word "kosmos." Of the 187 times it is used in the New Testament it is translated world 186 times. Like many words it has many meanings or usages. But most refer to "humanity in general" (Danker's Lexicon) with its various institutions (e.g. educational and religious) and its systems of government.

So before human society developed on this earth after the creation of Adam and Eve and the choices they made, God had devised the various steps in His plan for offering sonship to humanity and the various contingency paths that the plan would take depending on what human beings choose to do. In other words, different paths would be taken depending on what humans chose to do.

We see an allusion to this in Hebrews 4:8, "For IF Joshua had given them rest, THEN He would not afterward have spoken of another day." If Israel after entering the Promised Land had obeyed God, they would have become the example nation God had wanted them to be. Deuteronomy 4:5-6 reads. "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" But, Israel did not obey God, so they did not become that example nation then.

"If" indicates a point of a choice to be made followed by "then" indicating the path that would be taken as a result of that choice.

If Adam and Eve had not sinned, what path would humanity have taken? We can only speculate on that since they did sin and we know what path was followed.

Before Adam's creation God had designed his plan for having a family born from humankind. And, if these human beings chose the path of sin, a solution to that sin had already been foreordained. Humanity could be redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb of God (verses 18-19).

As Revelation 13:8 records, "And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:30pm	5:34pm	5:39pm
Sunset Friday 12-13	5:32pm	5:35pm	5:40pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 7, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: Jack Hendren

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Gabe Dempsey
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Michael Watts

"A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."

Proverbs 15:13

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 12-7	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 12-14	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

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 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) 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.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be on December 7.

Harlingen Bible Study: (Please note date change) 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.