

From the Pastor:

The next passage in James gives a fundamental truth. We are to be practioners of God’s way of life and not just hearers. We must not simply be those who listen to words that reveal how God wants us to live. But, we must be those who are truly seeking to practice what God says as our way of life.

The passage in James 1:22-25 reads, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

The Greek word for “doers” is “poietes” [pronounced: poy-ay-tace’]. Poietes is a noun that comes from the verb “poieo” [poy-eh’-o]. Poieo is the verb that is most often translated as “do” in the New Testament. However, like many words, poieo has several meanings or usages. Danker’s Lexicon has seven different ways that poieo is used. They all are in the spectrum of doing or making. Under each category of usage there are verses that illustrate the way the word is used in scripture.

One of the definitions [usages] given of poieo is “to carry out an obligation of a moral or social nature, do...practice.” To practice is a good definition in many cases. In 1 John 3:7, 10 (NKJV) poieo is actually translated as “practice.” 1 John 3:7 reads, “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices [poieo] righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.”

Poietes [doer] comes from poieo and is used six times in scripture [four times in James and three times in this passage]. However, it implies more than just Pharisaical doing [keeping the letter of the law only] as Jesus upbraided the Scribes and Pharisees for in Matthew 23:12-28. The Godly doer of the law is one who practices God’s way of life by keeping the law in letter and spirit.

The statement is: if we are not a practitioner of God’s way of life but only a hearer, we are deceiving ourselves that we are living pleasing to God.

In verse 22 “deceiving” is an interesting word. The Greek is “paralogizomai” [par-al-og-id’-zom-ah-ee]. It is a combination of “para” and “logizomai.” Logizomai means “to reckon, count, compute, and calculate.”

The Online Bible Greek Lexicon explains this about logizomai. “This word deal with reality. If I “logizomai” or reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Otherwise I am deceiving myself. This word refers to facts not suppositions.”

Therefore, if we reckon ourselves to be a Christian but are not practicing Christianity, we are deceiving ourselves.

In other words, if we hear or learn how we should be living (let’s say in a sermon), and then walk out of the doors of the meeting room and do not seek to live by what we heard, we are forgetful hearers and deceiving ourselves that we are living pleasing to God.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:31pm	5:34pm	5:39pm
Sunset Friday 12-14	5:32pm	5:36pm	5:41pm



Victoria

Sermon: Jack Hendren

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Michael Watts

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Proverbs 1:7

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 12/8	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 12/15	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen. Mr. Jim Franks will be in San Antonio. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria.

Winter Camp:

Camp will run from Wednesday, Dec. 26, to Tuesday, Jan. 1. For more information, please visit the COGWA Youth Camps website: camps.cogwa.org.

Winter Family Weekend:

Friday evening, December 21 through Tuesday night, December 25 in Louisville, KY.

FI Applicants: Will You Be at WFW?

Foundation Institute is now receiving applications for the 2019-2020 academic year. As a part of the admissions process, each applicant is interviewed by a Foundation Institute faculty member. We enjoy doing those interviews in person wherever possible, and the Winter Family Weekend gives us an opportunity to conduct a number of those interviews.

If you are considering applying for FI next year and will be attending the Winter Family Weekend, please contact the admissions officer, David Johnson, so one of us can plan to interview you during the WFW. You may send an email to: david.johnson@cogwa.org.

Regional Volleyball in Houston: This weekend the last regional volleyball weekend for this season will take place in Houston.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be January 5.
Harlingen – Sabbath of December 15, covered dish social and Bible Study.