

***From the Pastor***

After Jesus told His disciples to “let your light so shine before men.” He then began a fairly lengthy discourse about God’s law and righteousness. He spoke words in Matthew 5:17 that the churches of this world do not understand or believe. Jesus clearly said, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I do not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

However, the vast bulk of the churches of this world believe that Jesus came to do away with the laws of God. Many twist Paul’s words to the congregations in Rome and Galatia to say that he said the law was not necessary to keep. Peter recognized that some things Paul wrote were hard to understand (but not impossible) and were twisted by many. 2 Peter 3:15-16 records Peter’s words “and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”

Many today also twist Jesus’ own words in Matthew 5:17 to try to say Jesus was setting aside the laws of God when He said He came to fulfill the Law.

Man does not want to submit to God—to live by His Law; therefore, man does all he can to try to twist the words of the Bible to support the erroneous view that we no longer need to obey the laws of God. The idea that many put forth is that since Jesus fulfilled the Law—lived by God’s laws—He lived them for us; and, as a result, we don’t need to live by them—He obeyed them so we don’t have to.

This idea misses Jesus’ point completely. When Jesus fulfilled the Law He completed it. He did not do away with it. The Greek word translated “fulfill” is “pleroo.” Pronounced “play-ro’-o.” It means “to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full; to render full, i.e. to complete.” (Online Bible Greek Lexicon) We see this meaning in other verses.

Matthew 13:47-48, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet... which when it is full [pleroo]...”

Luke 3:5, “Every valley shall be filled [pleroo]...”

Colossians 2:10, “and you are complete [pleroo] in Him...”

What Jesus was saying in Matthew 5:17 was that He did not come to destroy the Law and the Prophets but to complete them—to bring them to the full. This is prophesied in Isaiah 42:21 “The Lord is well pleased for His righteousness’ sake, He will magnify the law and make it honorable.”

Jesus magnified the Law—completed the Law—when He taught the Spirit of the Law; adding it to the Letter of the Law. Christ gave several examples of magnification of the Law in much of the rest of Matthew 5.

|                     | <b>Victoria</b> | <b>Corpus Christi</b> | <b>Harlingen</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Sunset Today in:    | 5:31pm          | 5:35pm                | 5:39pm           |
| Sunset Friday 12-15 | 5:32pm          | 5:36pm                | 5:41pm           |

# Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



December 9, 2017

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Jim Chapman

## Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* Arnold Mendez

*Sermon:* Steve Moody

## Harlingen

*Split Sermon:* Michael Watts

*Split Sermon:* Orlando Mascorro

“And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit which God has given to those who obey Him.”  
Acts 5:32

## Announcements and Schedule

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Sabbath 12/9</b>  | Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and Victoria. San Antonio will meet back in the Family Life Center.   |
| <b>Sabbath 12/16</b> | Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and 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.

**Harlingen Potluck:** There will be Potluck in Harlingen after services on the Sabbath of December 16th.

**Victoria Pot Luck and Bible Study:** We have scheduled a potluck and Bible Study for December 30.

#### **Houston Volleyball Weekend December 9-10, 2017**

Church services: 2 pm at Klein ISD Multipurpose Center, 7500 FM 2920, Klein, TX 77379

Volleyball Facility: The Woodlands Revolution, 33204 Magnolia Circle, Magnolia, TX 77354

We are renting Gym A (containing 2 courts and a snack bar) and Gym B with three courts. They are connected through a covered breezeway. No outside food can be brought in. Only water can be brought.

Dining: There a lot of restaurants on FM1488 near the facility. The Woodlands is just south of the volleyball facility with many restaurants to choose from.

Local Hotels: There are quite a few hotels off of I-45 starting near the Rayford/Sawdust exit and going up to the State Highway 242 exit. It's about 10-15 minutes to the gym from I-45 and 242. It's about 25-30 minutes from the Rayford/Sawdust exit to the gym. However, the hotels further south will be closer to the teen activity.