

From the Pastor:

It has been a while since we were in 1 Peter; therefore, we will backtrack a little to pick up the context for the last two verses of 1 Peter 1 that we must still address.

1 Peter 1:22-25 reads, “22Since you have purified your souls [lives] in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24because all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, 25but the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

1 Peter 1:24 begins with “because” which is a conjunction that relates what follows to what has been said before. The phrase “through the word of God which lives and abides forever” is thus connected (and compared) to grass, flowers and man which are all temporary.

As we know God is eternal (Isaiah 57:15). And, thus, His word is eternal. As Peter said His word “lives and abides forever.”

However, everything made of matter is temporary. As Hebrews 1:10-12 records, “And You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

This is the state of human life. It is temporary. James described human life as a “vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14).

The only way human beings will abide forever is if we have our lives purified by “obeying the truth through the Spirit.”

The apostle John wrote of this in 1 John 2:20-21, 24-25, “But you have an anointing [the Holy Spirit] from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it...therefore let that abide in you which you heard from [a] beginning. If what you heard from [a] beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life.”

Indeed, if we are not going to fade as the grass, we must be seeking to have our lives “purified...in obeying the truth through the Spirit.” There is no greater endeavor to be pursued in this life.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	6:06pm	6:09pm	6:13pm
Sunset Friday 1-7	6:11pm	6:14pm	6:17pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



February 1, 2020

Victoria

Sermonette: Nick Ragusin
Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: HQDVD – Jim Franks

Harlingen

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“He who disdains instruction despises his own soul [life], but he who heeds reproof gets understanding.”

Proverbs 15:32

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 2-1	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 2-8	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. The HQDVD will be played in Victoria, Harlingen, and San Antonio. The DVD is by Mr. Franks titled "Every Wind of Doctrine."

FI to Sponsor Spanish and English Educational Tour of Israel in 2021

Foundation Institute is currently planning our next travel education tour to Israel, tentatively scheduled from June 1-8, 2021. We are excited to announce that, for the first time in our history, we are offering a bilingual tour of Israel in both Spanish and English.

Our plan is to have one 48-passenger coach for Spanish-speaking brethren (which will be led by a Spanish-speaking Israeli guide and include Spanish-speaking ministers) and a second 48-passenger coach operating in English. Both coaches will visit the same sites.

We will all stay in the same hotels; we will share meals together; and we will hold Sabbath services together in Spanish with English translation for those who need it. As one young man put it, we will have one English-language coach and one fiesta coach.

All are welcome to apply, but because of the unique nature of this bilingual tour, we must give priority to certain applicants. First priority will be given to those from Latin America who speak only Spanish. If we have additional room on that coach, we will next give priority to those from other areas who speak both Spanish and English. Finally, we will fill out the English-language coach with those who speak only English. In all cases we will give priority to those who are participating for the first time.

We will offer multiple travel options for our brethren traveling from Latin America. We are too far out from the travel date to announce a firm cost, but we estimate that we will be able to offer prices similar to our past Israel trips (see estimated pricing in the attached fact sheet).

The trip will follow an itinerary similar to our past education tours, starting in the northern part of Israel and ending in the city of Jerusalem. The trip will include visits to:

- Caesarea, Megiddo and Mount Carmel.
- The Sea of Galilee and northern Israel—Mount of the Beatitudes, Nazareth and Tel Dan.
- The Jordan Valley—Beth Shean, Qumran, Masada.
- Jerusalem—Temple Mount, City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Western Wall, Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, Yad Vashem, etc.

We will tour on air-conditioned coaches with professionally trained Israeli guides. There will also be on-site lectures from FI instructors and ministers, as well as Sabbath services in Jerusalem. For those interested in this trip, please consider that by early June, it becomes very hot and dry in Israel, and there is a great deal of walking over uneven ground in these trips. If the heat or walking would be a problem for you, this trip would probably be too physically demanding.

Please refer to the attached fact sheet for more information and instructions on how to register for this trip.

We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity!

David Johnson and Erik Jones

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be on February 1.

5th Annual Corpus Christi Goose Island State Park Campout: The weekend of Friday February 21st through Sunday February 23rd. There will be no regular services in Corpus Christi that Sabbath.

5th Sabbath Bible Study in Victoria – February 29