

**From the Pastor:**

The next passage gives God's view of His firstborn Son, Jesus Christ, and His view of the rest of His children – the brothers and sisters to Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-5 reads: "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:6 records that Jesus is the chief cornerstone: "Therefore it is also contained in the Scriptures, 'Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.'"

Jesus is likened to the chief cornerstone of a building – here and in Ephesians 2:20. The cornerstone was the stone upon which all the other stones of the building were aligned.

In 1 Corinthians 3:11 is called the foundation: "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." God house which we are is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

In 1 Peter 2:4 Jesus is called a "living stone, rejected by men, but chosen by God and precious..." 1 Peter 2:5 uses the same words to describe the people of God – living stones. We become a part of the spiritual house if we are properly aligned to Jesus Christ. If we have the life of Jesus Christ formed in us, we will become a part of God's family having Jesus Christ's own glory (Colossians 1:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; Romans 8:17-18).

God wants us to be a "holy priesthood." This is what He wanted Israel to be. Exodus 19:5-6 reads, "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation..."

If Israel had indeed obeyed God, they would have become an example nation to the people of the world of the blessings that would flow to a people who obeyed God (Deuteronomy 4:5-8). But, Israel did not obey. Therefore they did not teach the lesson of the blessing of obedience by their example.

But, we as the children of God will teach the world God's way when we are in God's family after His firstborn Son returns to restore God's rule to this earth. We will become a holy priesthood.

This we will be if we learn the way of love and not selfishness. This spirit of love and giving are the spiritual sacrifices that we must learn to offer. This is what the author of Hebrews (Paul) emphasized in Hebrews 13:16: "But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

On a personal note: We will be leaving for Branson tomorrow (Thursday) for the Presidents' Day Family Weekend. We will return sometime next week. I may or may not be able to get the weekly bulletin (update for San Antonio) together for the following week. Have a great Sabbath. We will see you when we return.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	6:17pm	6:19pm	6:23pm
Sunset Friday 2-21	6:21pm	6:24pm	6:27pm

# Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



February 15, 2020

## Victoria

Sermon: Larry Tucker

## Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Gabe Dempsey  
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez  
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

"All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits."

Proverbs 16:2

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 2-15</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 2-22</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Services in Corpus Christi will be at the Goose Island campout, Doug Horchak will present the Bible study. Mr. Jack Hendren will be in San Antonio. Mr. Jim Chapman will be in Victoria. Harlingen services will be at the home of Al and Donna Schmidt.

### 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 see your Pastor for a fact sheet.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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

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

**5<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Bible Study in Victoria – February 29**