

***From the Pastor***

Before covering the outline of prayer it would be helpful to address the point Jesus made in Matthew 6:7 a little more thoroughly. Jesus said, “But when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (NKJV)

The Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) translate this verse basically the same way. “And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (RSV)

The New American Standard Version (NASV) says, “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.”

Therefore, when we pray we should not “use vain repetitions,” “meaningless repetitions,” or “heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do.” I.e. we do not say words to fill in time. Our minds need to be in gear when we are praying. We are praying effectively when we are truly aware of, believe in, and are concerned about what we are saying or thinking.

Many different groups pray routine, ritual prayers. The so-called “Lord’s Prayer” too often has become just that.

Following Jesus’ exhortation to not “use vain repetition” all four translations (uses above) then give the same basic wording for verse 8. “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” Don’t do what so many others do! We will address the last half of verse 8 next time.

Jesus said “Do not be like them...” (RSV). In verse 9 Jesus begins giving the sample prayer which was meant to be an outline for our prayers and NOT a prayer to be vainly or meaninglessly repeated. But, that is indeed what so many in this world have done. This has become a ritual prayer like the old bedtime prayer I was taught. “Now I lay me down to sleep...”

We must remember that we are indeed speaking with our Father who is very interested in hearing from us. What does He hear from us? Does He hear words that are routinely repeated without our thinking about them? Or, does He hear what is truly in our hearts and minds?

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	6:19pm	6:21pm	6:24pm
Sunset Friday 2-23	6:23pm	6:25pm	6:28pm



**Victoria**  
*Sermon: Steve Moody*

**Corpus Christi**  
*Bible Study: Arnold Mendez*

**Harlingen**  
*Bible Study: Arnold Mendez*

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Prove yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”  
2 Corinthians 13:5

## Announcements and Schedule

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<b>Sabbath 2/17</b>	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
<b>Sabbath 2/24</b>	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. Mr. Hendren will be in Victoria. Harlingen will have a DVD sermon.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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**San Antonio Potluck:** The next regularly will be March 3, 2018.

**Corpus Christi:** Will have a Bible Study and a brown bag social on the Sabbath of February 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Goose Island Campout:** March 23-25, 2018 If you are interested, to reserve a campsite please contact Arnold Mendez Sr. directly. He has pre-reserved a group of campsites and he will assign you a site. He can be contacted at [arnold.mendez@cogwa.org](mailto:arnold.mendez@cogwa.org)

**Passover:** Observed Thursday evening, March 29, 2018. Time: 7:40 p.m. Corpus Christi, Harlingen, & Victoria

**Night to Be Much Observed:** Friday evening, March 30, 2018. Details TBA

**Feast of Unleavened Bread – First Holy Day:** Sabbath, March 31, 2018.  
Time: Victoria – 10:00 a.m.  
Corpus Christi – TBA

**Feast of Unleavened Bread – Last Holy Day:** Friday, April 6, 2018.  
**Victoria:** 10:00 a.m.

**Corpus Christi & Harlingen:** The Harlingen congregation will combine with the Corpus Christi congregation for services at 1:00 PM. There will be a potluck after services. The Harlingen congregation will provide dessert.