

From the Pastor:

Following James 3:14 which read, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth,” James continued the thought with verses 15-18. Verse 15 records, “This wisdom [being selfish, self-seeking and self-promoting] does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.”

Those are very strong words; but, those words reveal the primary source of selfishness of all sorts. The elevating of the self and one’s own ideas originated with Lucifer who became Satan the Devil. He apparently was not content with the office of responsibility God had created him to fill. He apparently wanted more.

The words inspired by God to Isaiah record this mindset of Lucifer. “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High [the Revised Standard Version states “I will make myself like the Most High”]” (Isaiah 14:12-14)

This is a common problem among humankind. Influencing people to exalt one’s own views and ideas is one of Satan’s most effective weapons to getting people to destroy themselves. It influences people to follow their own paths in deciding how to live life instead of seeking to learn from God—the source of life. As we know, this is what the Serpent did with Adam and Eve when he influenced them to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

This is the way of everyone doing what is right in their own eyes. This is what God warned Israel not to do on many occasions. Isaiah wrote this warning in Isaiah 5:20-21, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight.”

Walking down this path begins by deciding we want to do something differently than the prescribed way. For example, God gave specific instructions concerning how to make the incense for the Alter of Incense. That incense and only that incense was to be used for that purpose (Exodus 30:34-36; 30:9). Nadab and Abihu apparently wished to do something different and died for their departing from what God had prescribed (Leviticus 10:1-2).

One of the important convictions and motivations of our hearts that God tries, tests and watches for is to learn to what degree we have a real respect for what He says—His ways.

God knows that sin begins by making slight deviations from the path He has set. The farther along that deviant path we walk the greater the distance from His path we become. Deviations always begin seemingly innocuously; but, with each slight deviation the next deviation is always easier.

This is why James called self-seeking demonic. It is following the path the Adversary took.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	6:01pm	6:04pm	6:08pm
Sunset Friday 2-8	6:06pm	6:09pm	6:13pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



February 2, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: HQ-DVD

Harlingen

Split Sermon: Orlando Mascorro
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.”

Proverbs 4:25-27

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 2/2	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 2/9	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. The HQ DVD will be played in both Victoria and Harlingen.

Regional Teen Formal: March 2, 2019 – Spring-time in Tokyo

There's a grand event in the making, and we hope you plan to come! Please register now; don't wait or you might be late! The Sabbath service will be held at 1 PM at our normal meeting location, Unity of Dallas, but the dinner and dance will take place at a new location this year: The Westin Stonebriar Hotel & Golf Club in Frisco. All teens: Go to <http://www.cogwadallas.org/teens> to register for the dinner and dance. Also, PARENTS, if you have a graduating senior in your family, please refer to the senior questionnaire link at the website for the senior acknowledgements that evening. REGISTER ASAP - Registration deadline is February 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Hansen at rachel.hansen@sbcglobal.net.

Summer FI Continuing Education Seminar:

The faculty and administration of Foundation Institute are excited to announce the dates of this summer's FI Continuing Education seminar. These weeklong seminars held each summer in the FI classroom have been very successful in providing an additional opportunity for biblical education for those who are able to attend. A number of people plan to return every year for the classes and fellowship.

This year we will be offering one seminar in the new building, which is in McKinney, Texas. The seminar will be five days long, beginning on Monday morning and ending on Friday afternoon. The dates are July 15-19, 2019. The seminar will offer 29 one-hour classes taught by a variety of instructors and administrators from the headquarters office. The cost for the classes is \$75 per person or \$125 per couple. As in the past, we plan to provide a light lunch each day at no additional charge.

Because of the move to the new building, we will not open registration until the month of February. This will allow us to ascertain the capacity of the classroom and know how many students we can accept, prior to registration. We will make a follow-up announcement explaining the

registration procedure shortly after the office move is complete.

Thank you for your interest and support for Foundation Institute.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be February 2.

4th Annual Corpus Christi COGWA Goose Island State Park: February 22 thru 24, 2019. Please see brochure on the information table for details. Please note there will be no local services in Corpus Christi on that Sabbath. Sabbath services will be at the campout.

Harlingen Chili and Movie Night: Friday evening February 1st. Chili will be served at 6:30 pm and the movie will begin at 8P|pm at the home of Michael Watts.

Corpus Christi Chili and Movie night: At the home of Arnold and Janie Mendez sometime in March. Time TBA.