

**From the Pastor:**

The first sentence of 1 Peter 2 (verses 1-3) describes how a person must be if they have indeed experienced the loving benevolence of God.

The sentence reads, “Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the lord is gracious.”

The qualities mentioned first are not to be a part of a Christian’s character (all Greek definitions are from Danker’s Lexicon unless otherwise stated):

Malice: Greek – kakia – “the quality of wickedness, a mean-spirited or vicious attitude or disposition.” The OBGL [Online Bible Greek Lexicon] defines kakia as “desire to injure.”

Guile: Greek – dolos – “taking advantage through craft and underhanded methods, deceit.”

Hypocrisy: Greek – hupokrisis – “playing a stage role...in our literature only in a negative sense of creating a public impression that is at odds with one’s real purposes or motivations, play acting, pretense, outward show.”

Envy: Greek – phthonos – “envy, jealousy.” I.e. discontent because of what someone else has or recognition received.

Evil speaking: Greek – katalalia – “the act of speaking ill of another, evil speech, slander, defamation, detraction.” OBGL – “backbiting.”

None of these attitudes are qualities that a Christian should have if they have indeed “tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:3).

“Tasted” is from the Greek word used for tasting food. Danker’s defines the Greek “geuomai” as “to partake of something by mouth. But, Danker’s also give this second definition: “to experience something cognitively or emotionally, come to know something.”

“Gracious” is from the Greek meaning “kind, loving, benevolent.”

The point is: if we have come to recognize the great love God has for us as His future children, we must not have these very negative qualities be or become a part of our character. But, we must hunger and thirst after God’s righteousness (Matthew 5:6) realizing that the goodness of God is meant to lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4). We are to be “as newborn babes” desiring “the pure milk of the word,” that we may grow to become like God’s firstborn Son.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	6:012pm	6:14pm	6:18pm
Sunset Friday 1-14	6:16pm	6:19pm	6:22pm



**Victoria**

Sermon: HQ-DVD – Jim Franks

**Corpus Christi**

Sermonette: In Accord  
Sermon: Steve Moody

**Harlingen**

Sermonette: Michael Watts  
Sermon: HQ-DVD – Jim Franks

“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.”

Proverbs 15:33

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 2-8</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 2-15</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen. Mr. Bill Palmer will be in San Antonio. There will be a DVD in Victoria.

### 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 the FI link on the COGWA website for more information.

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 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**