

**From the Pastor:**

The next passage reveals how clearly and how regularly God should be in our minds. In other words, we should be seeking to live in harmony with the words of God minute by minute every day? Therefore, we must ask ourselves, “Is becoming godly (actually striving to live by every word that proceeds out of God’s mouth) something that motivates our conduct (that which proceeds from our hearts)?”

1 Peter 2:13-14 records, “Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good.”

The Greek word translated “ordinance” is an interesting word. It is “ktisis.” It is used 19 times in the New Testament. It is translated as “creature” 11 times, “creation” six times, “building” once and “ordinance” once. Danker’s Lexicon defines it as “an act of creation,” “the result of a creative act, that which is created,” or, a “system of established authority that is the result of some founding action.” Ordinances – man’s laws – are ordained [created] by the established governmental authorities.

In this verse “ktisis” would mean “submit yourselves to all the edicts of established authority.” This is why these two verses say submit to the “king as supreme or to the governors...”

But, the passage records, “submit yourselves to every ordinance of man [that which has been created by man’s authority] for the Lord’s sake.” The reason Peter gives for submitting to the king [who was Nero at the time] or governor is for the Lord’s sake. In other words we submit to man’s laws out of respect for God.

Remember the “therefore” at the beginning of the scripture. The “therefore” connects the previous thought with the one that follows. The previous verse stated, “Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles.” The example we set must be one of being godly law-abiding citizens. Obeying all laws out of respect toward God first and not just respect toward man’s laws.

Remember what Paul said in Romans 13:1-2, “Let every soul [person] be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.”

As much as human beings may despise governmental authorities, all authorities only have power because God has allowed them to have it – whether they be good or bad. Peter carried this principle over to those who were slaves in 1 Peter 2:18, “Servants [Greek – oiketēs – a slave who was considered a member of the household] be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.”

Again, our obedience to the laws of man is to be out of our respect toward God and not just man.

But, as we know the only time we do not obey man’s laws is when they would require us to violate God’s laws as Peter was recorded saying in Acts 5:29, “We ought to obey God rather than man.”

However, when there is no conflict God expects us to obey the laws of man as if they came from Him.

# Church of God South Texas

## Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



March 14, 2020

### Victoria

Sermonette: Steve Ruiz  
Sermon: Jim Chapman

### Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Gabe Dempsey  
Sermon: Steve Moody

### Harlingen

Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

“When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Proverbs 16:7

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7-36pm	7:37pm	7:39pm
Sunset Friday 3-20	7:39pm	7:40pm	7:42pm

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 3-14</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 3-21</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi plus Bible Study with brown bag social. Harlingen will have a DVD Sermon.

### **BLACK TIE BALL IN HOUSTON AREA (APRIL 11TH)...TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

The Houston North congregation cordially invites you to this year's formal dinner dance which will take place Saturday evening, April 11th in Spring, Texas...just north of Houston. A fine meal, live music, dancing and fellowship with brethren at a beautiful location is a great way to celebrate the spring holy days. Last year, after enjoying a lovely meal, 160 people danced the night away to a variety of music genre. You won't want to miss out this year! Seating is limited, so don't wait to purchase tickets. For additional details and to purchase tickets, please visit the event website at: <https://buytickets.at/cogwablacktieball2020/261955>

### **FI Summer Continuing Education Registration Announcement**

The faculty and administration of Foundation Institute are excited to announce our ninth annual Summer Continuing Education program.

This year we will be able to offer two one-week sessions, the first from June 8-12 and the second from July 13-17. Since we are using our new classroom facility, we will be able to accommodate up to 48 students for each session, so we believe we will have adequate room for any who wish to attend.

The tuition for each one-week session is \$75 per person or \$125 per couple, and this includes all instructional materials and a light lunch each day. We also plan to work with local hotels to offer special rates for housing in the immediate area.

Details about classes and instructors will be announced later, but we need your help in planning and preparing. Registration for the Summer Continuing Education classes will open at 10 a.m. Central time on Sunday, March 22. At that time you may go to the [foundationinstitute.org](http://foundationinstitute.org) website, click on the "Continuing Education" tab, and complete and submit the registration form. You will be able to indicate which session you wish to attend or if you are able to attend either session. By Friday, March 27, we will send an email to notify you whether you have been accepted or placed on a waiting list. Once you receive your acceptance email, you may send in your tuition to confirm your reservation.

Thanks for your interest and help. We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to this year's Summer Continuing Education program.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Pot Luck:** The next potluck will be on May 2.

**Harlingen:** There will be a Bible Study followed by a covered dish social on the Sabbath of March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Corpus Christi:** There will be a Bible Study followed by a brown bag social on the Sabbath of March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Passover service:** The evening of Tuesday, April 7 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria.

**Night to Be Much Observed:** Wednesday evening, April 8.

**1<sup>st</sup> Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Thursday, April 9.

**Last Day of Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Wednesday, April 15