

**From the Pastor:**

James 4:8 gives a promise of God, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” The rest of the passage (the rest of verse 8 and then verses 9-10) we will cover next time.

All of God’s promises are absolute. The Bible is full of promises that He has given to His people. However, this is one of those promises that is very dear to God for it involves our seeking to build a relationship with Him. God created us because He wants a family relationship with us. He really wants us as His children. Those words don’t just express a “nice” sentiment. Those words express the true and actual motivation of God’s heart.

Please remember 2 Corinthians 6:17-18, “Therefore ‘come out from among them and be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

Perhaps it is hard for some of us to understand the depth of God’s love for us and the depth of His desire to have a close fatherly relationship with us because we have never experienced such love. But, His love and His desire are real. The coming Passover is a profound testimony to His and His firstborn Son’s love for us.

We all know that John 3:16 expresses the motivation of God’s—the Father’s—heart, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” 1 John 3:16 expresses the motivation of the Word’s—Jesus Christ’s—heart, “by this we know love, because He laid down His life for us...”

This is the reality. God really wants us to come to Him as children to a loving Father. Jesus expressed this on the night of that last Passover He ate with His disciples in John 16:23, 27, “And in that day you will ask Me nothing, Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you...for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came from God.”

God truly wants to see His children seeking to draw close to Him.

Seeking to draw close to God starts with a motivation of our heart to really want to build a relationship with our Father. That motivation of heart leads us to study God’s word because we want to learn about our Father and what He wants us to do. That motivations leads us to pour out our hearts in prayer to our Father asking for spiritual eyes that can see Him and the ways He wants us to live more clearly. We then meditate on what we are studying so we can live by those truths. We fast. We deny the self for the purpose of seeing our Father.

If our Father sees in us a real desire to “hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Matthew 5:6), then He promises that we “shall be filled” with righteousness. God will reveal Himself more clearly to our minds. He will draw near to us.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:36pm	7:38pm	7:39pm
Sunset Friday 3-22	7:40pm	7:41pm	7:42pm



**Victoria**  
Sermon: Steve Moody

**Corpus Christi**  
Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

**Harlingen**  
Split Sermon: Orlando Mascorro  
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“The wise in heart will receive commands, but foolish of lips will be thrust down.”  
Proverbs 10:8

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 3/16</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 3/23</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Treybig will be in San Antonio. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Mascorro will present the sermon in Harlingen.

### **Black Tie Ball in Houston Area (April 27<sup>th</sup>)...Tickets On Sale Now:**

The Houston COGWA congregations cordially invite you to this year's formal dinner dance which will take place Saturday evening, April 27th 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 conclude the spring holy days. Last year, after enjoying a lovely meal, 165 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:  
<http://buytickets.at/cogwablacktieball2019/234800>

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Pot Luck:** The next potluck will be March 16.

**Corpus Christi Bible Study:** Sabbath March 16<sup>th</sup>, brown bag social after the study.

**Corpus Christi Chili Night:** Friday evening March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Chili at 6:30 p.m. and movie at 8 p.m. at the Mendez home.

**Harlingen Bible Study:** Sabbath March 30<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. with a potluck after the study.

**Passover Service:** Thursday evening, April 18.

Victoria: Sunset 7:55 p.m.

Corpus Christi: Sunset 7:55 p.m.

Harlingen: 8 p.m.

**Night To Be Much Observed:** Friday evening April 19 near sunset. Please make individual plans if you wish.

The Corpus Christi congregation will eat together at a Restaurant (TBA), then we will have dessert at the Mendez home.

**First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Sabbath afternoon, April 20.

Victoria: 10:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi: 3:00 p.m.

Harlingen: 10 a.m.

**Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Friday, April 26.

Victoria: One service at 10:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi: Combined with Harlingen at 1:00 p.m. Potluck after services.