

From the Pastor

Instead of “reinventing the wheel” on the subject of the outline of prayer given in Matthew 6:9-13 I will encourage you (who have access to the Internet) to go to the Life, Hope, and Truth (LHT) website to study the subject. In the God section (see the top line of the LHT homepage) there is a subsection titled “Prayer, Fasting and Meditation.” In that subsection is another subsection titled “How to Pray.” In that subsection are several articles on the subject of prayer. The article titled “The Lord’s Prayer” covers the parts of the outline of prayer Jesus gave in Matthew 6. There are several other fine articles on the subject of prayer in that section. Prayer is one of the vital tools for building a relationship with God that we must be using.

After covering the prayer, Jesus then in Matthew 6:16-18 touches on fasting. Fasting is another vital tool that we should be using to build a relationship with God. But, what is the proper approach to fasting? As with prayer Jesus mentions that when we fast we should not draw attention to ourselves.

Self-seeking—selfishness of all kinds as 1 John 2:15-17 records—works against building a right relationship with God. Understanding what it means to deny the self is a fundamental key to drawing closer to God. Jesus words concerning this are recorded in Matthew 16:24-25, “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me [which we have all said we want to do], let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.’”

Fasting is only spiritually beneficial if we approach it with a right attitude. The right attitude is one that is committed to seeking to know God better and not some attitude of seeking attention for the self.

In fasting we are literally denying the self. We deny ourselves food and drink. However, we will only become hungry and thirsty if our purpose for fasting—denying the self—is not motivated by a desire to draw closer to our Father—build a better relationship with Him. Building a stronger relationship with God is the only purpose for a spiritual fast.

Nowhere does God command us to fast before the Passover. However, is it wrong to fast? Not at all. Fasting would be very appropriate if our purpose is indeed to draw closer to our Father.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	6:28pm	6:30pm	6:33pm
Sunset Friday 3-9	6:32pm	6:34pm	6:36pm

Church of God South Texas
Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



March 3, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Mark Monsivais
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Split Sermon: Orlando Mascorro
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:5

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 3/3	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 3/10	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Palmer will be in San Antonio. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Houston Dinner Dance from Jim Servidio, pastor of Houston North:

The Houston congregations invite you to join us for our upcoming Spring dinner dance on April 7th. Here is the link to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfP8fapvv-vmnzMDkSr2oQGm2tA2Yut_quqkACITNLoGnnAQg/viewform

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

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

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.
Change of plans-The Mendez's will not be hosting the NTBMO, Mark and Amalia Monsivais have graciously opened their home for this event. Please see Mark or Amalia and let them know if you will be attending this event at their home.

Feast of Unleavened Bread – First Holy Day: Sabbath, March 31, 2018.

Time: Victoria – 10:00 a.m.
Corpus Christi – 3:00 p.m.
Harlingen – 10:00 a.m.

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 p.m. There will be a potluck after services. The Harlingen congregation will provide dessert.