

From the Pastor

Jesus' words in Matthew 7:5-6 are interesting and instructive. He said, "Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of you brother's eye. Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."

There are a couple lessons in those two verses. First, it is all too common for us to evaluate and find fault with the example and conduct of others while ignoring our own shortcomings which may be far worse. Christ used the comparison of a plank in our eye (which we ignore) while we try to point out the speck in our brother's eye. As we mentioned last time, our primary emphasis should be on honestly seeking to correct our own problems before we attempt to point out the problems in someone else's life.

That does not mean that we should never seek to help a brother see the negative effects of his conduct. However, this does point out the necessity of first examining ourselves and the approach we take in seeking to help others.

The right approach is emphasized by Paul in Galatians 6:1-4, "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine, his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another."

Do we approach our brother with a real spirit of gentleness—truly motivated by a desire to help—and not self-righteously? Self-righteousness manifests itself, at times, as thinking more highly of ourselves and our views than we ought. This gets back to the plank and speck analogy Jesus used.

The second lesson is that the parable of Matthew 7:6 is given as a caution. Trying to correct every error that we think we see may put us in a situation where we may deal with people who are really not seeking to live godly ("pearls before swine"). Obviously a person's spiritual condition is a value judgment that only God can make. The caution is realize (even with our best intentions and most gentle approach) we may not encounter a positive response.

There are two options as a result. First, we must decide whether the situation is serious enough that we actually need to deal with it. Then, secondly, if it is, we must truly be sure we are dealing with the issue in a godly way.

Seeking to help others with their example and conduct is a serious matter that should be dealt with by seeking God's help in prayer and seriously being sure that what we say will help.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	7:53pm	7:53pm	7:53pm
Sunset Friday 4-2	7:56pm	7:56pm	7:56pm



Victoria

Sermon: DVD

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Mark Monsivais

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts

Sermon: DVD

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."
Colossians 4:6

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 4/14	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 4/21	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi & Harlingen. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

2018 Camp Applications

The camp application system is now open. Simply go to your COGWA portal account, look under the Events area on the bottom left of your account main page and click on the “Click Here to Apply.” If you do not already have a COGWA portal account, go to the “Apply” page of the camp website (<http://camps.cogwa.org/apply/>) and click the link in the second paragraph for instructions on how to set up your portal account. Details about each camp can be found on the individual camp pages of the camp website.

Please note that we need a NEW photo (taken within the three months before an application is submitted) of each person that applies for camp to use in case of a medical emergency. If you need to upload a new photo, go to your portal account home page, find the name of the person applying for camp at the top right of the page under the “Household Members” heading and click the camera icon. Follow the instructions to upload a new photo and make that the default profile image.

We would also like to remind everyone that we want all COGWA attendees who wish to attend camp to have that opportunity. To help ensure that, we offer scholarship help (generally a partial tuition scholarship) to those who need it to be sure they can attend one camp this year. Simply contact the camp director to request a scholarship to get the process started.

Ken Treybig
CYC Overall Coordinator

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly will be May 5, 2018.

Corpus Christi: On the Sabbath of April 21st there will be a Bible Study and a brown bag social.

Feast of Tabernacles:

In the first week we have over 60 percent of our U.S. COGWA members registered for the Feast of Tabernacles! While Festival registration will continue to be open over the next few weeks, we strongly encourage those members who have not yet registered for the Feast of Tabernacles to do so soon. This includes those who will not be able to attend the Feast. These registration numbers greatly assist us in our early Festival planning.

Please note: Rapid City, South Dakota, is now closed to further registration, as it is at total capacity. Those members who have not yet registered may want to consider San Diego, California—a wonderful West Coast destination—for the Feast this year. In addition, there remains plenty of room at all remaining U.S./North American Feast sites.

- May 7: Early housing reservations begin.
- May 14: Regular housing reservations begin at 10 a.m. in the time zone of the Festival site/location.