

From the Pastor:

James 4:13-17 speaks to a problem that virtually all of us have. The passage reads: (13) “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; (14) whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. (15) Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ (16) But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. (17) Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

What is the problem expressed here? The problem is living life—making plans—and not having God in the picture. This Passover time should remind us clearly that our life was not given to us for us to simply do as we please—to live life simply as we see fit to live it. We too often make our plans without God and His purpose in our minds. Our lives were given to us to not simply live as we please. Our lives are not our own. The apostle Paul expressed this clearly in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who [which] is in you, whom [which] you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

God gave us life for one and only one purpose. We are to use this life to learn how to live the way God wants us to live so we can become His sons and daughters in His family. That is what God’s plan is all about.

The Kingdom of God to come is the time in the future when God’s sons and daughters will serve with His firstborn Son to teach all humanity the knowledge they need to enter God’s family as well. Please remember the Kingdom of God is the earth and universe ruling family of God. Flesh and blood beings will not be in God’s Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50). They will be ruled by those who are actually in the Kingdom—actually in god’s family. During the 1000+ years of God’s rule (the Millennium and Great White Throne Judgment period) on this earth we are to serve with Jesus Christ to bring the knowledge of salvation to the rest of humankind.

But remember when we and the rest of humanity were born into this world we all became the slaves of the Adversary or the slaves of sin. Paul explains this in some detail in Romans 6:16-22. Romans 6:17-18 reads, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

There was a ransom paid for our release from Satan and sin. That ransom paid was the blood of Jesus Christ who was sacrificed as the Passover Lamb of God. Peter explained this in 1 Peter 1:18-19, “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

To redeem is from the Greek lutroo. Danker’s Lexicon defines it as “to free by paying a ransom.” The ransom the Father paid to free us was the life and shed blood of His firstborn Son.

With that price God bought us—bought our lives. We belong to Him. As a result it is the height of arrogance and evil (as James indicates in verse 16) for us to view life and live our lives without God in the picture. James then shows that we who know this but don’t do it to us that is sin.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	7:48pm	7:49pm	7:49pm
Sunset Friday 4-12	7:52pm	7:52pm	7:52pm



Victoria

Sermon: Jack Hendren

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: DVD

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro
Sermon: Michael Watts

“The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth.”

Proverbs 10:30

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 4/6	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 4/13	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

Black Tie Ball in Houston Area (April 27th)...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>

Camp Lone Star:

Howdy Parents and Preteen Campers! Camp Lone Star application deadline is quickly approaching. Camp runs from June 16-19, 2019 (Staff arrives June 16). Please send in your application by April 1st. All post-application paperwork is due May 31, 2019. Deduct \$15 if payment is received by May 31st. Your application can be submitted online by navigating to Camp Lone Star - Camps - COGWA Youth Camps We are looking forward to seeing ya'll soon!

Festival registration opens on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at 10 a.m. Eastern time:

We ask that ALL COGWA households please complete the online Festival registration—whether attending in the U.S. or internationally. If adult members in one household are attending different sites, they will need to register individually. We also ask that those NOT attending please register as well—this gives us more accurate figures for planning.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Eastern time on Sunday, April 14, members can begin accessing the <http://feast.cogwa.org> web page for Feast registration. The email address of the registrant will be used to identify that person's or family's registration account. After accessing the COGWA Feast web page, simply click on the "REGISTRATION" tab and begin the process. All registrants will receive an email verification immediately after completing the first step of registration. To complete the process, simply access that email, click on the link provided and finish your Festival registration.

<<Members without Internet access should be assisted by their local Festival adviser>>

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be between services on the Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Passover Service: Thursday evening, April 18.

Victoria: Sunset 7:55 p.m.

Corpus Christi: Sunset 7:55 p.m.

Harlingen: 8:00 p.m.

Night To Be Much Observed: Friday evening April 19 near sunset. Please be making individual plans if you wish. However plans have been finalized for Luciano's Restaurant for the NTBMO for those in Corpus Christi that would like to attend. Afterwards desserts can be brought and eaten at the Mendez Home.

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

Victoria: There will be one service at 10:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi: There will be one service at 3:00 p.m.

Harlingen: One service at 10:00 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. Pot luck to follow.