

From the Pastor

As we covered last time there are certain statements in Luke 6:29-30 that need further explanation. We will use the example of Jesus Christ Himself and the example of Paul to give further understanding of this passage. This passage has given some difficulty in the past. The passage reads:

“To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold you tunic either. Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back.”

The spiritual principle to be learned from this passage is that a Christian should not seek revenge when evil or injustice is perpetrated or inflicted on him. This is the example of Jesus that we read at Passover time in 1 Peter 2:23. This passage is speaking of a slave, but, the lesson applies to us all:

“For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return, when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.”

The attitude of not seeking vengeance is what is being stressed as Paul wrote in Romans 12:19-21:

“Beloved do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

On more than one occasion when Christ was threatened with bodily harm, He simply escaped from the mob. (Luke 4:28-30; John 8:59; John 10:39) The point is: If we can escape the situation, do so. There is no requirement that we make ourselves a punching bag. What we must do is not develop a spirit of resentment and revenge.

There is also nothing wrong with seeking just treatment (as long as our attitude is not wanting to hurt or get revenge). Paul on more than one occasion used his rights as a Roman citizen to seek just treatment. Please read Romans 16:35-40.

Romans 22:22-29 gives another account. Paul was ordered to be bound and scourged. Paul invoked his rights as a Roman citizen again to stop this. Romans 22:25 records, “And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, ‘Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?’”

Again, the point of the passage in Luke is that a Christian should never develop a spirit of seeking revenge when treated unjustly (or, especially if punished justly).

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



May 12, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: In Accord

Sermon: Michael Watts

“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.”

Proverbs 8:13

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
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Sunset Today in:	8:10pm	8:09pm	8:08pm
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Sunset Friday 5-18	8:13pm	8:12pm	8:11pm
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Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 5/12	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
Sabbath 5/19	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in San Antonio. The HQ DVD will be played in Victoria. Mr. Monsivais will present the sermon in Corpus Christi. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.
Pentecost 5/20	San Antonio will be combined in Austin. Victoria, Harlingen, and Corpus Christi will meet at their regular times and locations. Mr. Moody will be in both Victoria and Corpus Christi. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

From Clyde Kilough:

We are pleased to introduce a new website dedicated to our COGWA teens! Your thoughts, trials and experiences are unique to you. You'll find blogs, sermon messages and more—all with topics just for you! Don't see what you're looking for? You can even suggest a topic! We hope you'll find this website useful in dealing with everyday life as a teen following God's way. Visit the new site today at teens.cogwa.org!

FI to Sponsor Pentecost Trip to Israel: (Fact sheet available at Information Table Sabbath)

Foundation Institute is currently planning a travel education tour to Israel during the 2019 Pentecost season. The trip will take place from June 3-12, 2019. This is an exciting opportunity to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in the Holy Land—just a few short miles from where the Church began on Pentecost of A.D. 31. The trip will follow a similar itinerary to that of our 2016 trip, starting in the northern part of Israel and ending in the city of Jerusalem. The trip will include visits to: Caesarea, Megiddo and Mount Carmel. The Sea of Galilee and northern Israel—Mount of the Beatitudes, Nazareth and Tel Dan. The Jordan Valley—Beth Shean, Qumran, Masada. Jerusalem—Temple Mount, City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Western Wall, Golgotha and the Garden Tomb, Yad Vashem, etc.

We will tour on an air-conditioned coach with a professional Israeli guide and historian. There will also be on-site lectures from FI instructors and ministers, as well as services in Jerusalem on the Sabbath and Pentecost.

The cost for the trip (including airfare from New York, a shared hotel room, two meals a day and admission to all sites) is estimated to be \$3,300 per person for a shared room and around \$4,000 for a single-occupancy room. Since we are announcing it so early, we cannot yet lock in airfares for 2019, so the total cost may be slightly higher or lower.

Space on this trip is limited, so while members who went on the 2016 trip are welcome to apply, we will be giving priority to those who are participating for the

first time. Refer to the attached fact sheet for more information and instructions on how to register for this trip. More information can be found at foundationinstitute.org/continuing-education/travel. We hope you will consider this exciting opportunity!--David Johnson and Erik Jones

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Pentecost services:

Victoria: Sunday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Corpus Christi: Sunday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Harlingen: Sunday, May 20 at 10 a.m.

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly scheduled potluck will be June 2, 2018.

Harlingen Congregational Meal: The Harlingen congregation will have a group meal after Sabbath Services on May 19.

UPDATE Announcement: Festival Registration:

We would like to remind all COGWA members who have not registered for this year's Feast of Tabernacles to please do so by Monday, May 7. Registering during this time period is very helpful for festival planning. Even if you are unable to attend the Feast this year, we request that you register and indicate such.

IN ADDITION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS KNOW

- If you already registered for the Feast, you should have received a confirmation email in return. If you did not receive a confirmation email, please re-register and make sure it is completed correctly.
- The Feast sites in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Cortona, Italy, are filled to capacity, and are closed to further transfers.
- If you are still deciding where to attend, we would like to make you are aware of the site on the west coast that still has plenty of room: San Diego, California – located in the beautiful coastal city in Southern California. This year we are again at the refurbished Crown Plaza Hotel.

Early housing reservations also begin on Monday, May 7. Beginning on Monday, May 14, general housing reservations will be accepted. In addition, everyone who registers for the Feast will receive an email offering an opportunity to serve.