

**From the Pastor**

The next passage that Jesus spoke in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-14) is often quoted. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate, and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

The Authorized Version (AV) [also known as the King James Version (KJV)] uses the word "strait." The NKJV translates this as narrow which is an accurate translation of the Greek "stenos." Danker's Lexicon states further concerning "stenos": "narrow...so that it would be difficult for even a relatively small man to pass through without some distress."

In verse 14 the word "difficult" ["narrow" in the AV] is from the Greek "thlibo." From Danker's it means "to cause something to be constricted or narrow, press together, compress, make narrow." In Greek literature it has been used to describe "a narrow confined road and therefore a source of trouble or difficulty to those using it."

Jesus used these words to describe the path (of righteousness) on which God has called us to walk. Living God's way in this world is not easy. In fact it is very difficult. God intended it to be difficult. Luke recorded Paul's words about this in Acts 14:22, "strengthening the souls [lives] of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations [Greek - "thlipsis" from "thlibo"] enter the kingdom of God."

The Online Bible Greek Lexicon defines "thlipsis" as "a pressing together, pressure." Danker's Lexicon adds, "in the metaphoric sense trouble that inflicts distress" thus "oppression, affliction, tribulation."

Very few people truly like stress, difficulty, affliction or tribulation. Sometimes our difficulties, anguish and trials come from our own wrong desires or choices. But, God allows all trials in order to see what is truly in our hearts. Are we led around by our own desires or wants—to do what is right in our own eyes; or, do we truly want to live pleasing to God?

Living Godly in this world is difficult. Wrong paths, wrong choices and wrong desires (sins) press in on the mind from all sides in this society. From our reactions and choices God is seeing what we really want—what is truly important to us.

Do we choose the easy way? Or, do we choose the walk (live) the way God wants us to live? Even though living God's way in this world will bring us in conflict with the way of this world. However, if God and His ways are real to us, we will face these trials with love, joy, peace and the rest of the fruit of God's Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	8:14pm	8:13pm	8:12pm
Sunset Friday 5-18	8:17pm	8:16pm	8:15pm



<p>5-19-18</p> <p><b><u>Victoria</u></b></p> <p><i>Sermonette:</i> Nick Ragusin <i>Sermon:</i> HQ DVD</p> <p><b><u>Corpus Christi</u></b></p> <p><i>Sermonette:</i> Michael Watts <i>Sermon:</i> Mark Monsivais</p> <p><b><u>Harlingen</u></b></p> <p><i>Bible Study:</i> Arnold Mendez</p>	<p>5-20-18 Pentecost</p> <p><b><u>Victoria</u></b></p> <p><i>Sermonette:</i> Larry Tucker <i>Sermon:</i> Steve Moody</p> <p><b><u>Corpus Christi</u></b></p> <p><i>Sermonette:</i> Arnold Mendez <i>Sermon:</i> Steve Moody</p> <p><b><u>Harlingen</u></b></p> <p><i>S/Sermon:</i> Orlando Mascorro <i>S/Sermon:</i> Arnold Mendez</p>
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“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Galatians 6:9-10

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 5/19</b>	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.
<b>Pentecost 5/20</b>	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.
<b>Sabbath 5/26</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. Mr. Hendren will be in Victoria. Mr. Mascorro will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

**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](http://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 3:00 p.m.

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

Please don't forget to come prepared for the Holy Day offering.

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

**Harlingen Congregational Meal:** The Harlingen congregation will have a congregation meal after Sabbath services on May 19<sup>th</sup>.