

From the Pastor

Following Jesus' words about entering in through the narrow gate and traveling the difficult way, He warned His disciples to "Beware of false prophets." This passage is found in Matthew 7:15-20. The passage primarily speaks of identifying those false prophets by their fruit. The final verse in the passage reads, "Therefore by their fruit you will know them."

The question that arises is: "What kind of fruit?"

Paul warned that false teachers can outwardly appear as "ministers of righteousness." 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 reads, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."

Again, the false teachers will be identified by their fruit or their works.

What is the chief fruit that God wants us to bear in order to become His children? What is the chief fruit of God's Spirit? "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23) The first quality mentioned is love (Greek – "agape" or God's kind of love). 1 John 4:8, 16 record that "God is love." God is "agape." That is His nature. His servants will be striving to grow in that quality and teach God's people to grow in that quality in order to inherit life in the family of God as God's own children.

All of us as God's people are called to be God's servants. God has called us to be among the firstfruits of His family. God has called us to be co-workers with His firstborn Son. But, to be given that awesome responsibility, we must grow to have God's kind of love flowing out of us. In other words, we are to grow to become just like Jesus Christ in love.

It is the fruit of Godly love that identifies us as God's servants and God's people. On the night of the Passover Jesus told His disciples, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:14-15)

In Romans 13:10 Paul was referring to the second commandment of the law when he wrote, "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." Love is the fulfilling of the law.

Jesus explained that the first and great commandment of the law is: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul [life or being], and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

False prophets, false brethren are primarily concerned about their own image. Paul warned in Galatians 5:26, "Let us not become conceited..."

We are all a work in progress. None of us are perfect in love. But, the fruit we must be bearing is a real concern for the growth and well-being of others that proceeds from a deep love for God.

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



May 26, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Jack Hendren

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Orlando Mascorro

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:18pm	8:17pm	8:16pm
Sunset Friday 6-1	8:21pm	8:20pm	8:18pm

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 5/26	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 6/2	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

Festival Assistance: If anyone is in need of festival assistance this year for the Feast of Tabernacles, please see Mr. Moody in Corpus Christi or Mr. Mendez in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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

Pot Luck and Bible Study in Corpus Christi:

Date: June 10, 2018 Time: 12:30 p.m.

Location: Jay & Sue Hensley's home, 136 County Road 326, Mathis, TX
Jay and Sue will provide meats and drinks. The rest of us: please bring sides, desserts, breads.

Pot Luck and Bible Study in Victoria:

Date: June 30, 2018

Horchak Visit: On the Sabbath of July 7th Doug and Tanya Horchak will be visiting the Harlingen congregations. After services there will be a catered Mexican food meal at the Home of Michael Watts. The Friday before on July 6th there will be barbeque at the Home of Arnold and Janie Mendez. The Corpus Christi congregation will be invited to visit and fellowship with the Horchaks.