

From the Pastor:

Before the spring feasts began we were in James 5. We had just examined James 5:1-6 which is a passage concerning the rich who abused those who worked for them (James 5:4). We concluded by saying, “James’ purpose was to not warn the rich of the world in James’ day for his letter would not be seen by them. Though, it would be seen by some in later generations who would read the Bible. However, this letter and this message was and is an encouragement to God’s people. We must remember God knows what we face and He will avenge us if that is needed (Romans 12:19).” This understanding is supported by James 5:7 where James exhorts God’s people to be patient “until the coming of the Lord.”

James then relates an agricultural analogy that illustrates the quality of patience. He wrote, “See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.”

Early and latter rain was a promised blessing which God had given for obedience. We read in Deuteronomy 11:13-14, “And it shall be that if you diligently obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul [life], then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.”

The early rain and the latter rain were the fall rains (early) and the spring rains (latter) respectively. This is opposite to what we would call these rains. The difference comes from when the beginning of the year was calculated by the Israelites. The Hebrew Civil Calendar began in the fall on the Feast of Trumpets (also called the Jewish New Year). Thus the fall rains would be called the early rains (the first rains of the new year).

The “Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary on the Whole Bible” records the following on this passage in Deuteronomy:

“The early rain commenced in autumn, i.e., chiefly during the months of September and October, while the latter rain fell in the spring of the year, i.e., during the months of March and April.”

This is the opposite of what we would think since the Roman year upon which our calendar is based begins on January 1.

James exhorted God’s people to be patient “until the coming of the Lord.” He reemphasized this in James 5:8 which records, “You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

At the time James wrote this letter James like Paul (see 1 Thessalonians 4:15 “we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord”) apparently believed Jesus would return in his day. He had not yet realized when he wrote this (as Paul eventually did – see 2 Timothy 4:8) that Jesus’ return was still in the future.

However, the lesson of patience in the face of trials is one that we all must learn.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:05pm	8:04pm	8:04pm
Sunset Friday 5-10	8:08pm	8:07pm	8:08pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



May 4, 2019

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”

Proverbs 11:14

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 5/4	Regular times and locations for Harlingen, and Victoria. Corpus Christi will meet at the home of Arnold and Janie Mendez at 3 pm. San Antonio will be in a new location: Super 8 Motel, 200 Palisades Drive, Universal City, TX
Sabbath 5/11	Regular times and locations for all congregations. San Antonio's new location is the Super 8. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. The HQDVD will be played in San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

Feast of Tabernacles

If you have not yet registered for this fall's Feast of Tabernacles, please do so by May 6. You can register at <https://feast.cogwa.org/>
If you need help, please see your festival advisor.

Victoria: Mr. Larry Tucker
Corpus Christi and Harlingen: Mr. Arnold Mendez

Feast of Tabernacles – Early Housing

Those who qualify to make early housing reservations can begin doing so on Monday, May 6. Members who qualify to make early reservations include:

1. Those who need handicapped rooms.
2. Those with very limited finances who need to be assured of procuring one of the lower-priced rooms.
3. Those who, due to dietary requirements, must have a kitchenette.
4. Those who have a large immediate family (six or more).

If you fit into one of these categories, please check with your Festival adviser who will be happy to assist you in finding satisfactory housing.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: There will be no more monthly potlucks until a suitable hall is obtained.

Corpus Christi Bible Study: On the Sabbath of May 4th we will meet at the home of Arnold and Janie Mendez for a Bible Study, with a pot luck to follow.