

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 6/23	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 6/30	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria. There will be a DVD sermon in both Corpus Christi and Harlingen. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will present the sermon in Lima, Peru.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Wedding of Michael Watts: Michael Watts and Ana Cecilia Tavera Olavarria will be married after the Sabbath on June 30th in Lima Peru. Arnold Mendez will officiate and will be accompanied by Janie on the trip to Peru. Please pray for the safe travel of all involved and for God's blessing on the activities.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:29pm	8:28pm	8:26pm
Sunset Friday 6-29	8:30pm	8:29pm	8:27pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



June 23, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: David Gatley

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

John 17:17

From the Pastor:

At Ambassador College there was a class taught on the General Epistles. These seven books contain much valuable information. Quoting from the Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary on the Whole Bible “In the oldest MSS [manuscripts] of the New Testament extant, they [the General Epistles] stand before the Epistles of Paul.”

In other words, in the oldest manuscripts containing all 27 books of the New Testament, the order of books is as follows: The Gospels, Acts, the General Epistles, Paul’s Letters, Hebrews, and Revelation.

Why this order? If indeed this is the order that was inspired by God, then there is a good reason.

However, before covering that point we need to understand that there were three men that we believe were used by God to assemble those documents that became the writings of the NT inspired by God.

First, there was the apostle Paul. From 2 Timothy 4:11, 13 we believe that Paul sent copies of certain of his letters which God inspired to become a part of scripture to Peter by the hand of John Mark.

“Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry...Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.”

The word for ministry (notice there is no “the” before ministry) is diakonia. Danker’s Lexicon defines this word in relation to 2 Timothy 4:11 as “performance of a service.” Mark was needed by Paul to perform an important service. What was that service?

Paul also wanted the parchments. Were these the copies of the letters that God inspired him to have preserved as scripture? We believe so. We also believe that the service Mark performed was to carry these letters to Peter for preservation.

Please remember this letter of 2 Timothy was written by Paul during his second imprisonment in Rome. He knew he was going to die there. He had just written what is found in 2 Timothy 4:6-8, “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the

Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” God apparently led him to have those letters that God wanted preserved as scripture sent to Peter before he (Paul) died.

We believe this because we read about Mark being with Peter in Babylon in 1 Peter 5:13, “She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.”

In 2 Peter 2:15-16 (written not long after 1 Peter) Peter equates Paul’s letters (which Peter obviously has copies of and has read) with the other scriptures. “and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”

This is important. Peter was equating these epistles (letters) of Paul with the rest of the Scriptures. These letters were recognized as Holy Scripture by then. We will cover more next time.