

From the Pastor:

The rest of James 5:15 reads, “And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” We must not conclude from this passage that all illness or injury involves sin. The verse reads, “And IF” denoting that sin is not always involved in illness. In times past some have assumed that illness occurred because some law was violated. This is not true. Illness and injury can occur to a person and he or she has not committed any sin which caused this physical problem.

However, some illnesses and/or injuries do involve sin. An example of this would be cirrhosis of liver as a result of prolonged alcohol abuse. So this statement in James is given from the point of view of an individual who may or may not have brought on his physical problems as a result of his sin.

If there was sin James is also clearly assuming that by the individual turning to God for healing, he has acknowledged and is repentant of his sin. Otherwise, his sin would not be forgiven. There must be a spirit and attitude of repentance before God will forgive sin. This is what Peter said in Acts 3:19, “Repent therefore, and turn to God SO THAT your sins may be wiped out...” (New Revised Standard Version – NRSV) There would be no forgiveness of sins if the individual had not first repented.

This is a good place to examine Jesus’ encounter with the paralyzed man recorded in Matthew 9:2-7:

“And behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. And Jesus, seeing their faith, said to the paralytic, ‘Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.’ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, ‘This Man blasphemes!’ But Jesus knowing their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven you,” or to say, “Arise and walk?” But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sin.’—then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’”

Please don’t forget that Jesus, as the Word (a member of the Godhead) in the flesh, had the same capabilities of mind that He had when we was on the God-plane level of life. He saw what was in the minds of the scribes (“Jesus knowing their thoughts”). Jesus also knew that this individual’s paralysis was due to a sin he had committed. Otherwise, his healing would not have involved a forgiveness of sin. This particular healing was not preceded by the individual’s repentance. Why? This was a special case for the purpose of showing the authority Jesus had. “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power [authority] to forgive sins...”

“Power” is from the Greek “exousia.” It is translated as “authority” 29 times in the KJV. The OBGJL makes this comment, “primarily liberty of action” and “liberty of doing as one pleases.” Jesus had the authority to do as He pleased. He healed this man by forgiving his sins to show He had the authority to forgive sins.

Not all illness is as a result of sin. However, if it is, God will heal if we repent of those sins.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:30pm	8:29pm	8:27pm
Sunset Friday 7-5	8:30pm	8:29pm	8:27pm



Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Split Sermon: Mark Monsivais
Split Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Michael Watts

“The life of a sluggard desires and has nothing; but the life of the diligent shall be made rich.”
Proverbs 13:4

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 6/29	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Harlingen and Victoria. San Antonio will be in its new location: The Autism Treatment Center, 15911 Nacogdoches, San Antonio, TX
Sabbath 7/6	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in San Antonio. There will be a DVD in Victoria. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

Festival Assistance from Headquarters:

Each year many faithful brethren contribute extra funds from their Festival tithe so that other needy members can receive the financial assistance they need to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Last year these generous contributions enabled nearly 200 people to attend the Feast who would have been unable to attend otherwise. The Church recognizes its responsibility to see that those contributions are distributed fairly and equitably.

If you have no tithable income or if you have faithfully saved your Festival tithe and will still not have sufficient funds to attend the Feast this year, we will be happy to help where we can. If you think you will need additional funds to be able to attend the Feast this fall, please contact our local Festival advisor, Mr. Tucker (Victoria), Mr. Mendez (Corpus Christi), or your pastor to get a Festival Assistance Member Information form. Complete the form and return it to your pastor or festival advisor as soon as possible. (All information on the form will be treated as confidential.)

Ministerial Services has asked us to have all assistance applications turned in by July 21, so please pick up the form and return it to your congregation's Festival advisor or your pastor as quickly as possible.

Again, Festival financial assistance is available for those who do not have a tithable income and for those who do not have adequate funds to attend the Feast even though they have faithfully saved their Festival tithe.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: There will be a potluck on July 6 at our new hall. Address of the new hall in San Antonio (June 1):

Autism Treatment Center
15911 Nacogdoches
San Antonio, TX

San Antonio Outing: Don't forget the Missions game (Triple A baseball) Sunday, June 30 at a little after 6 P.M.

Bible Study in Victoria – June 29:

Since there will be a 5th Sabbath in June, there will be a Bible Study in Victoria. We will not have a potluck in conjunction with this Bible Study. After the sermon we will take a break and then hold the Bible Study 15 minutes later.

If you have Bible questions, please give them to Mr. Tucker so he can forward them to me. Or, you can email them directly to me (steve.moody@cogwa.org)