

From the Pastor:

The next point that James makes is found in James 5:12 where he records, “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ lest you fall into judgment.”

There is evidence in the Scriptures that the word “all” [Greek – pas] doesn’t always mean “all”—as in every individual or every single thing. For example, Matthew 3:5-6 reads, “Then Jerusalem, all [pas] Judea, and all [pas] the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan...” Did every individual in Judea and the region go out to John and were baptized? Or, did individuals from all over Judea and the region (all regions of Judea represented) come to John to be baptized?

In C.H. Spurgeon’s writings he wrote on the subject of “all.” “The words ‘world’ and ‘all’ are used in some seven or eight senses in Scripture; and is very rarely that “all” means all people [or things], taken individually.”

So in James 5:12 where James says, “But above all,” is he saying that not swearing is the most important point a Christian must be concerned with avoiding? Is “not swearing” more important than learning to keep the spirit of each of the 10 Commandments? No. But, not swearing is very important.

James here is echoing what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5:33-37, “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all, neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool, nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No,’ for whatever is more than these is from the evil one.”

Some, when they swear by something, may imply that they can enlist or are seeking to enlist the aid of whatever they are swearing by to help them do what they have said. Others swear by something that they consider sacred or something that they believe would testify to or support their truthfulness [“I swear by my mother’s grave.”].

It would be very presumptuous to say (for example) that heaven would back up our words, or that something would keep us from lying. Only God can guarantee that what He says He will do. We cannot. No oaths that we perform will make it possible for us to do what we say. We should say that “Yes, we will do something” or “No we cannot.” If we say “Yes we will do something,” we need to add “God willing.” James addressed this in James 4:13-16. If we say any more than “Yes” or “No,” we are taking a power that only God has and Satan tried to take.

James 5:12 concludes with “lest you fall into judgment.” “Judgment” is from the Greek “hupokrisis” and is most often translated as “hypocrisy.” Hypocrisy means to “pretend to be what one is not.” When we swear—say more than “Yes” or “No”—we, in effect, are saying that we can do what only God can do. That is, at its least, hypocrisy.

| | Victoria | Corpus Christi | Harlingen |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Sunset Today in: | 8:25pm | 8:23pm | 8:22pm |
| Sunset Friday 6-14 | 8:27pm | 8:26pm | 8:24pm |



Weekly Sabbath 6-8-19

Victoria

Sermon: DVD

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Bible Study:
Arnold Mendez

Pentecost 6-9-19

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette:
Mark Monsivais

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette:
Michael Watts
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.”

Proverbs 12:22

Announcements and Schedule

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sabbath 6/8 | Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and Victoria. |
| Pentecost 6/9 | Regular time in Victoria. San Antonio will meet in the Hilton Garden Inn at 8101 Pat Booker Road at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria (AM) and San Antonio (PM). Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi combined with Harlingen. |
| Sabbath 6/15 | Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. There will be a DVD in Corpus Christi. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen. |

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: There will be no monthly potluck in June. Potlucks will resume in July at our new hall.

Harlingen Congregational Meal: The Harlingen congregation will have a congregation meal after Sabbath services on June 8th.

Address of the new hall in San Antonio (June 1):

Autism Treatment Center
15911 Nacogdoches
San Antonio, TX