From the Pastor:

One principle we must understand as we begin a verse by verse examination of the General Epistles is that there often is more than one thought that can come from the verses discussed. A person explaining the verses may emphasize one aspect of the verse whereas another person may emphasize another aspect. Both points are drawn from the same verse. However, different aspects are emphasized. This is not unlike the harmonizing of the four Gospels. At times the four writers recorded the same things. At other times each recorded something a little different from the same events.

Jesus alluded to this potential in Matthew 13:52, “Then He said to them, ’Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.’” In other words, there are different points that can be learned from the same truth. We will not discover any “new” truth. But, from time to time something may be covered that not everyone has heard before.

James 1:1 begins, “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ…”

We need to discuss the Greek word translated here as servant. The Greek is doulos. Danker’s Lexicon defines doulos as a “male slave as an entity in a socioeconomic context.” The Online Bible Greek Lexicon (OBGL) explains further that doulos “is the usual word for slave, one who is permanently in servitude, in subjection to a master.”

The first place that doulos is used also shows this understanding (one who obeys the commands of his master). Doulos is first used in the words of the centurion speaking to Jesus in Matthew 8:9, “For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant [doulos], ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

A doulos was a person who was the actual property of someone else who was their master. As such the slave was bound to obey the words of their master. Therefore, the doulos was the slave in a master/slave relationship.

The Greek for Lord is kurios. Remember Jesus is Lord which means master in that master slave relationship. The OBGL defines kurios as “he to whom a person or thing belongs [remember we are bought with a price – 1 Corinthians 6:20], about which he has power of deciding.” We are the slaves of Jesus Christ—bought and paid for with His own blood. Now doulos is not the only word translated as servant in the New Testament; but, it is by far, the most often used Greek word that is translated as servant. Of the 146 times the words servant or servants are found in the NT, 120 of those times if from the word doulos.

When James (or the other apostles) write saying that they are the servants of God and the Lord (Master) Jesus Christ, they are emphasizing their complete submission as a slave to the will of God and the Lord.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victoria</th>
<th>Corpus Christi</th>
<th>Harlingen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Today in:</td>
<td>8:26pm</td>
<td>8:25pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunset Friday 6-29</td>
<td>8:23pm</td>
<td>8:22pm</td>
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</tbody>
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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17
**Announcements and Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sabbath 7/21</th>
<th>Regular times and locations for all congregations.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sabbath 7/28</td>
<td>Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. David Johnson will be in San Antonio. Mr. Mascorro will present the sermon in Harlingen.</td>
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**Friday Night Live:** Join us this Friday evening, July 20, for our “Friday Night Live” webcast Bible study, which will begin at 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (7 p.m. Central, 6 p.m. Mountain and 5 p.m. Pacific).

This month’s study, presented by Gary Black, is titled “Emotional Maturity.”

Emotional maturity can make a huge difference in the quality of your relationships, your job performance and your happiness. And most important, it is a major factor in your spiritual growth. What does emotional maturity look like? How can you know you are growing emotionally mature? It doesn’t necessarily come with age.

Please join Gary Black as we explore what Scripture says about the vital importance of emotional maturity. That’s this Friday evening, July 20, at 8 p.m. Eastern Time, for Friday Night Live.

**Booking Feast Accommodations for the United States:**

Just a reminder to our brethren, be sure to secure your housing for the Feast at our U.S. sites by the end of July.

Our COGWA Feast of Tabernacles housing contracts on our hotel and condo room blocks state that the room blocks are released on July 31. We don’t want our members to call for a hotel room, only to find out that the room block was released and that rooms are no longer available!

**Festival Assistance:** If anyone is in need of festival assistance this year for the Feast of Tabernacles, please see Mr. Moody.

**Camps:** Please be praying about the weather and safety at the upcoming camps.

**Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember**

**TEEN CAMPS:**
- Camp Sequoia – July 22-29
- Camp Fort Bluff – July 29 – Aug. 5
- Camp Heritage – Aug. 5-12

**PRETEEN CAMPS:**
- Camp Arrowhead – July 29 – Aug. 1