

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.”

We are called to be the slaves of our Lord (Master) Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 7:21-23, “Were you called while a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use it. For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord’s freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price; do not become the slaves of men.”

Doulos is also translated as “bond” in the KJV (6 times) and bondman (once). It is translated as “bond” as opposed to being free (Galatians 3:28). The NKJV translates this verse, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave [*doulos*] nor free...”

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 is 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.

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



July 21, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“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

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
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Sunset Today in:	8:26pm	8:25pm	8:24pm
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Sunset Friday 6-29	8:23pm	8:22pm	8:21pm
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Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 7/21	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 7/28	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.

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

Winter Camp – Dec. x, 2018 – Jan. x, 2019

PRETEEN CAMPS:

Camp Arrowhead – July 29 – Aug. 1