

From the Pastor:

James addresses his letter “to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.” (James 1:1) This is a reference to the fact that the twelve disciples (later apostles) were sent by Jesus to “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matthew 10:6)

Whether we accept either of the two dates for James’ death (i.e. 62 A.D. or 67 A.D though the latter seems more likely), the letter was written late in the early Christian period when heresy was spreading. Circular letters were being sent out to combat this increase in heretical teaching which often involved an effort to diminish or even do away with obedience to God’s laws.

Paul and Peter dealt directly with the heretical teaching of false ministers.

In 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 Paul addresses this issue very clearly.

“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches *another Jesus* whom we have not preached, or if you receive a *different spirit* which you have not received, or a *different gospel* which you have not accepted, you may well put up with it.”

In this last phrase Paul is being somewhat sarcastic. Other translations render this phrase “you are marvelously tolerant!” (Twentieth Century New Testament – TCNT) “Why not put up with me?” (The Bible by James Moffatt) “You bear this beautifully.” (New American Standard Bible – NASB) The point Paul is making is: If you are putting up with these others who are teaching you different ideas, why aren’t you putting up with me?

This point is emphasized by what Paul said in the next verse (2 Corinthians 11:5), “For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles.” “Most eminent” is a super superlative. The Greek is *hyper lian*. *Huper* means “over, beyond, more than.” (OBGL) *Lian* means “exceedingly beyond measure.” (OBGL) In more colloquial terms we would translated “most eminent apostles” as “super-duper apostles.”

Paul then speaks of these people in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

In Peter’s last letter (that we have) written around the same time as James’ letter, he wrote, “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” (2 Peter 2:1)

James in his letter speaks very clearly (as we will see) about keeping the law. He also said, “so faith without works is dead also.” (James 2:26)

It is this statement in James that prompted Martin Luther to call the letter of James “an Epistle of straw, and destitute of an evangelic character” (JFB Commentary).

An important aspect of the heresy that was gaining ground was the idea that God’s laws are no longer relevant. James seeks to combat this teaching.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:22pm	8:22pm	8:20pm
Sunset Friday 8-3	8:18pm	8:18pm	8:17pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



July 28, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez

Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Split Sermon: DVD

Split Sermon: Orlando Mascorro

“But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”

Matthew 10:19-20

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 7/28	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 8/4	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

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