

From the Pastor

The second Beatitude reads, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4).

What does this mean—”Blessed are they who mourn?” What is the ultimate source of God’s comfort for the Christian and the world?

The Greek word translated “mourn” is “pentheo – pen-theh’-o.” Danker’s Lexicon gives the primary definition of pentheo (a verb) as “to experience sadness as the result of some condition or circumstance, be sad, grieve, mourn.” The Online Bible Lexicon describes pentheo as “a passionate lamentation of any kind, so great that it cannot be hid.”

Pentheo is only used ten times in the New Testament. In the KJV it is translated seven times as “mourn,” twice as “wail,” and once as “bewail.”

There is an interesting passage in Revelation 18:9-11 that shows how pentheo is used in general:

“And the kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep [Gk. “klaio” – “to weep audibly, as a child”] and lament [Gk. “kopto” – “to beat the breast in grief”] for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city of Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn [Gk. “penteo”] over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore.”

The kings of the earth cry as a child cries at the destruction of Babylon. And, the merchants who got rich by trading mourn—are greatly grieved—because the source of their livelihood is taken away. The merchants are sad. They are grieved and mourn because of the circumstance they find themselves in as a result of the destruction of Babylon the Great.

Matthew 5:4 says “Blessed are those who mourn...” What are the circumstances that should grieve a Christian—cause us to mourn?” There is a passage in Ezekiel that I remember being read many times when I was first in the Church of God. The passage is Ezekiel 9:3-4: “Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer’s inkhorn at his side; and the Lord said to him, ‘Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.’”

When we as Christians see all of the evil and suffering that exists in this world, evil and suffering that continues to get worse and worse, we should be grieved and mourn and earnestly cry out “Thy Kingdom Come!” It is when lasting peace is brought to this earth by the return of Jesus Christ that we and the world will finally be comforted.

This is what is meant by “Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:11pm	8:10pm	8:10pm
Sunset Friday 8-18	8:06pm	8:06pm	8:06pm



Church of God South Texas
Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen

August 12, 2017

Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermon/Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

“Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the just; for the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.”

Psalm 7:9

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 8/12	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Victoria, Harlingen, and San Antonio.
Sabbath 8/19	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 present the sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly scheduled potluck will be September 2.

