

From the Pastor:

James 5:19-20 reads, “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul [life] from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

As we see here, the NKJV uses the word “turns.” The KJV uses the words “convert” and “converts” respectively. The Greek is “epistrepho” which literally means “to turn” and is translated even in the KJV as “return, turn about and turn again.” Epistrepho is the Greek word translated as “be converted” in Acts 3:19. It means to change one’s direction.

We must understand that it is impossible to cause anyone to change their direction, turn around, or be converted unless that individual can recognize that they are heading in the wrong direction – unless they first have a change of mind or heart which is what real repentance is. In other words, a person must exercise his own free will (from the heart) to change his spiritual direction. As we have covered recently, God may be able to force people to obey – to comply with His commands (as He will do in the Millennium), but, He does not nor cannot force anyone to yield to obey Him from the heart and have them retain their free moral agency.

Turning from sin is a matter of a person’s individual free choice. A person’s sins can be pointed out to him, but, that individual must see his conduct as being sinful and then from his own heart freely choose to change his direction. No one can make him repent – not even God. True repentance (having a real change of heart) must come from a person’s own free choice.

In James 5:20 the life that is saved from death is the life of the individual repenting. And, the “multitude of sins” that are covered are the sins of the individual repenting and not the sins of the person who points out the error of the individual’s way to him, as some have assumed.

As we pointed out last time, there is no “amen” at the end of James. The letter ends rather abruptly without any closing remarks that we find in all the other letters of Paul and the other apostles (except 3 John). As we said before we can only assume what that means.

This concludes the letter of James. Where we go from here I have not yet decided. We may go on to 1 Peter, but, I haven’t decided. If you have any requests, please let me know.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:19pm	8:18pm	8:17pm
Sunset Friday 8-9	8:14pm	8:13pm	8:13pm



Victoria
Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi
Sermonette: In Accord
Sermon: Mark Monsivais

Harlingen
Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Proverbs 14:12

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 8/3	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 8/10	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Hoyer will be in Victoria. Mr. Mitchell will be in San Antonio. There will be a DVD sermon in Harlingen.

COGWA's P.O. Boxes

COGWA has always maintained two P.O. Boxes—one for correspondence and one for tithes and offerings.

Because of the move to the new office in McKinney, we will be closing the Allen P.O. Box this month. We ask that you no longer mail anything to P.O. Box 1009, Allen, TX 75013.

Please make the necessary changes to ensure we receive your correspondence and tithes and offerings by using the appropriate P.O. Box listed below.

Correspondence ONLY should be mailed to:

COGWA
P.O. Box 3490
McKinney, TX 75070-8189

Tithes and offerings ONLY should continue* to be mailed to:

COGWA
P.O. Box 731480
Dallas, TX 75373-1480

*Note: This is our bank address and has not changed. The white, preprinted envelopes mailed with your receipts use this address.

Using the correct P.O. Box is a big help to us—and can save the Church money. We are charged a fee if anything other than money is sent to our bank address (P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480).

But any money sent to the McKinney P.O. Box has to be forwarded to the Dallas P.O. Box for processing. If you use the white, preprinted envelopes we provide, you don't need to do a thing. But if you use bill pay to send your tithes and offerings, please confirm that you are using the correct address: P.O. Box 731480, Dallas, TX 75373-1480.

COGWA Fall Music Festival: September 1

Save the date - the fall music festival is back. This year the COGWA Fall Music Festival will be held on September 1st at Whitley Vineyards Wine Bar, located at 401 College Street in Montgomery, Texas. This is a live music event starting at 11 am and lasting until 7:15 pm.

There will be five bands and two singer/songwriters performing classic rock, country, pop, and folk music.

A canopy will be constructed onsite to provide a shady place for your lawn chairs, or you can bring your own pop-up. You'll find more information about the event, the bands and the show schedule on information table.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be on August 3.