

**From the Pastor:**

1 Peter is addressed to the “elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.”(1 Peter 1:2) That is a very powerful statement of truth. We are in the Church of God today because God the Father Himself selected us personally to have the opportunity to learn His spiritual truth at this time.

Jesus Christ said in John 6:44 very clearly, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” It is the Father who calls us – who opens our minds by His Spirit and gives us the opportunity to understand spiritual truth which no one else understands. The purpose of this sanctification is for us to have the opportunity to enter into and build a relationship with God. The end purpose of this relationship is to become the actual children of God. This is what the “sanctification of the Spirit” means.

Danker’s Lexicon defines “hagiasmos” (the word translated here as sanctification) as “personal dedication to the interests of the deity.” What is the interest of the deity [God]? Paul expressed that interest – that desire – of God in 2 Corinthians 6:18 “‘I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

We are sanctified [“set apart for God” OBGL] because the Father wanted us to have the opportunity to become His son or daughter in this age. God the Father personally examined and selected us to have the opportunity to be called by Him in this age. This is what Peter is saying when he said, “elect according to the foreknowledge of God.”

“Foreknowledge” is from the Greek word “prognosis.” This is the noun form of the verb “proginosko.” “Proginosko” literally means “to know before.” This is the verb Paul used in Romans 8:29-30 “For whom He foreknew [proginosko]...predestined...called...justified...glorified.”

Foreknowing is one of the two steps the Father takes before He calls a person. The Father examines everyone in order to get to know them before He calls them. From His examination [foreknowing] He apparently sees something in them which leads Him to believe they can be called now. However, once called it is still up to that person’s free choice to decide what he or she will do with that call. Remember “being called” means God gives us access to His Spirit. The Spirit is with us enabling us to understand God’s spiritual truth. Being called, however, does not reveal what we will do with that opportunity. What we do is a matter of our free will – our free choice.

Since Peter is writing to the elect, he assumed these people had responded positively by real repentance to God’s calling; that they had already come under the blood of Christ at baptism; and, had committed themselves to the path of obedience.

Peter then gives his standard desire that God’s grace [God’s loving-kindness and favor] and peace would flow to them.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:52pm	7:52pm	7:53pm
Sunset Friday 9-6	7:45pm	7:46pm	7:46pm

# Church of God South Texas

**Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



August 31, 2019

## Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

## Corpus Christi

Bible Study: Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts

Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“Shall they not go astray that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be for them that devise good.” (The Holy Scriptures by the Jewish Publication Society – JPS)  
Proverbs 14:22

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 8/31</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Sabbath 9/7</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in San Antonio. Corpus Christi will have a DVD sermon. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. Mr. Watts will present the sermon in Harlingen.

### **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 September 7.

**Victoria Bible Study:** Believe it or not August has 5 Sabbaths in it. The fifth Sabbath will be August 31. Since the last Bible Study went fairly well we will do the same thing this time. It will not be a pot luck. But, please give any questions that you may have to Mr. Tucker or email them to me at [steve.moody@cogwa.org](mailto:steve.moody@cogwa.org). Thank you.

**Feast of Trumpets: Monday, September 30, 2019**

**Day of Atonement: Wednesday, October 9, 2019**