

From the Pastor:

James begins his circular letter to God's people with an exhortation to endure trials. In the 60's A.D. there was a growing persecution against Christians. Beginning in 64 A.D. after the burning of Rome Nero began a major persecution of Christians. Following the example of Rome, Roman Prefects in other Roman provinces also began to persecute the Christians in their provinces. Besides this the Jewish uprising in Palestine began in 66 A.D. As a result there was a growing animosity toward all Jews in the Empire. This affected Christian Jews.

James 1:2-4 reads, "My brethren count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

In verse 2 "trials" is from the Greek peirasmos meaning "an experiment, attempt, trial, proving." (OBGL) Peirasmos (a noun) comes from the Greek verb peirazo which means "to try whether a thing can be done." (OBGL)

We find these two words in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation (peirasmos) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted (peirazo) beyond what you are able, but with the temptation (peirasmos) will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

God allows all trials. He seldom has to cause any for us. We face trials regularly by simply living in this world. However, in all trials, tests, temptations (please realize that not all trials are direct temptations to sin; but we may respond to those trials by sinful actions), God has promised His help to withstand them if we do not respond to them by sinning.

Remember Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Trials can help us grow in spiritual strength as James 1:3 shows, "knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

Faith is founded on God's promises. We have faith in God when we firmly believe God will always do what He has promised. This is what Abraham's faith in God was founded on. "He [Abraham] did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform." (Romans 4:20-21)

Hebrews records, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Having faith in God's promises in the midst of trials will produce patience as we wait for God's promised answer or deliverance. The problem is that we want God's answer or deliverance when we want it; instead of waiting on God to answer when He knows it is best for us. Remember Christ's prayer, "not My will, but Yours, be done." (Luke 22:42)

In verse 4, "perfect work" means let faith accomplish its end [goal]—produce its end product—which ultimately is Christ in us. "Perfect" in both places in verse 4 is from the Greek teleios meaning "brought to its end," also "mature." (OBGL) Growing in Godly faith will help us reach our goal of becoming like Jesus Christ.

James wrote, "that you may be perfect [mature] and complete [whole] lacking nothing."

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:18pm	8:17pm	8:16pm
Sunset Friday 8-10	8:13pm	8:12pm	8:12pm



Victoria

Sermonette: Nick Ragusin
Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 8/4	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 8/11	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. Mr. Hendren will be in Victoria. Mr. Mascorro will present the sermon in Harlingen.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Camps: Please be praying about the weather and safety at the upcoming camps.

TEEN CAMPS:

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

Corpus Christi will have a Bible Study and a brown bag social on the Sabbath of Sept. 15th.

Harlingen will have a Bible Study and a potluck on the Sabbath of Sept. 1st.