

**From the Pastor:**

Peter continued his letter in 1 Peter 1:6-7, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” Peter’s sentence continues but this is enough to cover at this time.

“In this you greatly rejoice...” In what do we greatly rejoice? In the salvation that will be revealed in the last time. Being given the opportunity to become a member of God’s own family now should be something we humbly stand in awe of. We know that this incredible opportunity – this opportunity given to the firstfruits – those to whom God has given access to His Spirit in this age – bears with it the responsibility of choosing to live life according to the way God wants us to live. That way is finite and definite. In other words, there are NOT many ways to live to please God. There is only one way. We must seek to live as Jesus Christ lived. And, it is our Father who is the one who decides whether we are living that way.

In these verses we see an important purpose of trials. From trials God sees what is in our heart. He learns whether we really love Him or not?

The apostle Paul was acutely aware of the fact that our faith in God will be tested by severe trials. While in Lystra Paul had been stoned to the point that he appeared dead (Acts 14:6, 19-20). Verses 21-22 then record, “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls [lives - minds] of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’”

Again, through trials God sees what is in our heart. This is what 2 Chronicles 32:31 records, “However, regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, whom they sent to him [Hezekiah] to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land, God withdrew from him, in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.”

In Proverbs 17:3 we read, “The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the hearts.”

The tests and trials we go through in this life reveal to God whether we truly believe and love Him. None of us are anywhere near perfect. But, our commitment to change – to seeing our failings and being committed to changing must be 100% – unflinching.

How easily are we turned from seeking to learn and live by God’s ways? If we are not daily praying and studying – seeking to grow in the power of God’s Holy Spirit that enables us to change, we will respond to life badly and we will not live life pleasing to God. However, if we are diligently seeking God, as Peter said, we “may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:19pm	7:20pm	7:22pm
Sunset Friday 10-4	7:12pm	7:13pm	7:15pm



<b>September 28</b>	<b>Trumpets Sept 30</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Victoria</b>
Sermon: Ivor Mitchell	Sermon: Steve Moody
<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>
Sermonette: Jarred Brunick	<b>&amp;</b>
Sermon: Steve Moody	<b>Harlingen</b>
<b>Harlingen</b>	Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermonette: Michael Watts	Sermon: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: Arnold Mendez	

“Righteousness exalts a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.”  
 (The Holy Scriptures by the Jewish Publication Society – JPS)  
 Proverbs 14:34

## **Announcements and Schedule**

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<b>Sabbath 9/28</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
<b>Trumpets 9/30</b>	One service at 10:00 a.m. in Victoria at the regular location. Two services in San Antonio at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. One service at 1:00 p.m. combined with Harlingen in Corpus Christi at the regular location.
<b>Sabbath 10/5</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. There will be a DVD in Victoria. Mr. Chapman will speak in San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

## **Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember**

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**San Antonio Pot Luck:** The next potluck will be on November 2.

**Feast of Trumpets: Monday, September 30, 2019** - Corpus Christi and Harlingen will combine for services at 1 pm. Covered dish social to follow.

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