

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 3, 2016 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	.....	Ron Avey
Pianist	.....	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	.....	Dave Havir
Teen class—Library	.....	Jim Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	.....	Mindy Forrestier
Second sermon	.....	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Potluck meal today—There is a potluck meal scheduled immediately after the church service today.
2. Church social on Dec. 31—We are planning for a winter church social on Saturday evening, Dec. 31. More details will be announced next week.
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Ten Words That Will Transform a Nation" by Lenny Cacchio.
4. Among Friends—This week's article is "Did God Micromanage Saul?" by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 28 pages.

Prayer updates

Boyd Payne has been having breathing challenges. On Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving Day), he went by ambulance to Longview Regional Hospital at 10:00 p.m. **Annette** was in the waiting room for many hours while he was evaluated. At 4:00 a.m. they returned home. This past Wednesday, he went to the doctor because of the breathing problems. Please pray that his breathing improves and that he can deal with the anxiety. (FYI, he is returning to his doctor in Plano for a scheduled follow-up visit after his recent heart-valve surgery.)

Gracie Feaker reports that her breathing challenges are much better this week. As you can imagine, the breathing problems affect her sleeping.

Vi Lehman missed the church service last week due to a lack of energy. She is hoping to be at the church service today.

Kit and **Elaine Holloway** report that they had another good week.

Betty Foster reports that her ribs are healed. (It took five weeks to heal instead of three weeks in a previous experience.) Please remember her in your prayers as her back regularly hurts. (FYI, she enjoys being on the kitchen crew that helps with our monthly potluck.)

In the Nov. 19 bulletin, we mentioned that **Cledice Decker** of Pasadena, Calif., was diagnosed with a nodule on the left side of her thyroid gland. She has since learned that she has thyroid cancer. She was scheduled for surgery this past Wednesday to have her thyroid removed (and is anticipating to take a synthetic thyroid medication). However, because her blood pressure was higher than an acceptable level, the surgery was postponed.

Cindy Wright of Stockholm, N.J. (daughter of **Laura Moran**), had a good week as she continues in hospice care due to a variety of health matters.

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Lisa Smith** is scheduled for surgery to remove her gall bladder.

Laura Moran and her niece **Linda** request prayers for Linda's daughter **Crystal** (Laura's great-niece) of Feasterville, Pa. Crystal (age 33) is dealing with extreme depression due to the death of her 2-year-old son (which happened months ago). Crystal, who weighs only 71 lbs., has been hospitalized for two weeks.

Thomas Johnson of Philadelphia, Pa. (brother of **Laura Moran**), requests prayers of our congregation for several medical problems.

Roman Borek of Pasadena, Calif., has been diagnosed with aggressive stomach cancer and nodules on his liver.

Vincent Cavallo of Altadena, Calif. (age 32), died on Nov. 26 in a hunting accident. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.—*James 1:25-27*

“Did God Micromanage Saul?”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 3, 2016.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Bible students like to discuss God’s involvement in the selection and behavior of civil leaders. In three separate articles (this one and in the next two), we will discuss three Old Testament leaders who were chosen by God.

The three examples demonstrate that, even when God does choose a person to lead nations, He generally does not micromanage the actions of that leader.

Israel demanded a king

Many years ago, the elders of Israel wanted Samuel to help them to have a king (1 Samuel 8:5). The request of the people displeased Samuel, and he prayed to God (verse 6).

God instructed Samuel to warn the people about their request (verses 7-18). The people heard the warning, but still wanted a king (verses 19-22).

So God picked their king.

God chose Saul

There was man in the land named Saul, who had noticeable physical qualities for leadership (1 Samuel 9:1-2).

God informed Samuel of the selection of Saul (1 Samuel 9:15-16).

Samuel poured oil on Saul’s head (1 Samuel 10:1).

Did not force obedience

When Bible students look at the behavior of Saul, they can recognize that God did not micromanage Saul’s behavior to be obedient.

The biblical record shows some examples of God being displeased with some of Saul’s choices.

Unlawful sacrifice

Notice Saul’s decision to make a sacrifice.

1 Samuel 13:8-10—“Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by

Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. So Saul said, ‘Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.’ And he offered the burnt offering. Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.”

1 Samuel 13:11-12—“And Samuel said, ‘What have you done?’ And Saul said, ‘When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.’”

1 Samuel 13:13-14—“And Samuel said to Saul, ‘You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.’”

Not following instructions

Notice this example of Saul not following instructions.

1 Samuel 15:10-11—“Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ‘I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.’ And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night.”

1 Samuel 15:13—“Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, ‘Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.’”

1 Samuel 15:14—“But Samuel said, ‘What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?’”

1 Samuel 15:15—“And Saul said, ‘They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.’”

1 Samuel 15:16-17—“Then Samuel said to Saul, ‘Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.’ And he said

to him, ‘Speak on.’ So Samuel said, ‘When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?’”

1 Samuel 15:18-19—Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, “Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.” Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?”

“Ten Words That Will Transform a Nation”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 3, 2016

By Lenny Cacchio

LEE’S SUMMIT, Mo.—We speak of them as the Ten Commandments, but the Hebrew word translated “commandments” in this context can just as easily be translated “words.” (Compare Exodus 20:1 and Exodus 34:28).

In an interesting lesson this morning in a men’s Bible study here in town, I was intrigued at a comment Rod Handley made about “the 10 divine rules for human conduct,” as he put it. He was quoting another source that I have been unable to find, but the lesson is a good one.

His source reduced each of the Ten Commandments to one word and pointed out that any society would prosper if they

were to respect and live by these 10 words.

By the same token, any society that ignores these 10 words would find itself in decline.

The 10-word summary of the Ten Commandments is:

1. Religion
2. Worship
3. Reverence
4. Time
5. Authority
6. Life
7. Purity
8. Property
9. Tongue
10. Contentment

Kind of sums it all up, don’t you think?

Scriptures to consider

Psalms 100:1-5—“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14—“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”