

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Oct. 26, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:34

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Jonathan Havir

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading 1 Corinthians 15:24–28

Sermon Bruce Chesney

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The congregation and sister congregations thank the Feast coordinators (David and Joyce Coleman and Neil and Martha Mclver) for their service at the recent Feast of Tabernacle celebrations in Big Sandy and Destin.
2. Thank you—The Colemans and the Mclvers thank the many people who helped serve at our Feast sites.
3. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Bruce Chesney (pastor of a Church of God Seventh Day congregation in Harrisburg, Pa.). Mr. and Mrs. Chesney, who attended a Feast site in Florida, came to Texas to attend a conference of the Church of God Seventh Day. Since Mr. Chesney has appreciated the many times that Dave Havir had spoken in his congregation when Mr. Havir would travel to Pennsylvania to visit his parents, Mr. Chesney offered to speak at our congregation. Mr. Havir appreciated the offer and is looking forward to Mr. Chesney blessing our congregation.
4. Wednesday-night Bible study—Oct. 30 at 7:00.
5. Daylight-saving time ends on Nov. 3—This is a reminder that daylight-saving time ends on Sunday, Nov. 3.

6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "People Hate Those Who Fight Evil" by Dennis Prager.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "2 Chronicles 15:3–4" by Dave Havar.

Prayer updates

Following are reports that **Dave Havar** texted to members of the congregation involving **Linda Avey**. On Wednesday (Oct. 16), she was scheduled to be transferred from Longview Regional rehab to Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. On Tuesday (Oct. 15), her numbers spiked and she was moved from the hospital rehab to a hospital room. On Thursday (Oct. 17), the doctors were suspicious of a stroke and performed a CAT scan and an MRI. On Friday (Oct. 18), she was nonresponsive. On Sunday (Oct. 20), she was awake—laughing and saying a few words. On Wednesday (Oct. 23), she continued to improve. The doctors still did not have answers about what had happened. On Friday (Oct. 25), she was moved to the Legend Oaks nursing home in Gladewater. Daughter **Sheila** reported: "She made it to Legend Oaks. She is still slowly recovering and had a bit of a rough day. So I am asking for no visitors right now. Once she feels a little better, I will open it up to visitors."

New prayer requests

On Sunday (Oct. 13), **Morris Foster** was bitten by a copperhead. On Monday (Oct. 14), he reported that he had received two bags of antivenom. On Thursday (Oct. 17), he was released. On Wednesday (Oct. 23), he went back to the hospital with a diagnosis of cellulitis infection in his foot and leg.

On Tuesday (Oct. 22), **Leslie Harroff** had surgery for the doctor to remove scar tissue and to manipulate the shoulder. She was able to return home the same day.

On Wednesday (Oct. 23), **Sharon Burgin** came down with gout. (She also mentioned that, starting in the summer, she occasionally deals with a pinched nerve.)

Ella Horter of Willow Grove, Pa. (83-year-old aunt of **Mickey Voyce**) was diagnosed with a tumor on her spine. She is scheduled to travel to a hospital in Philadelphia (more than one hour away) four times next week for testing. Please pray for a good result and for the easing of her pain.

The Book of Life

Philippians 4:3—"And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life."

Revelation 3:5—"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."

Revelation 13:8—“All who dwell on the earth will worship him [the beast], whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Revelation 17:8—“And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

Revelation 20:12—“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Revelation 20:15—“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 21:27—“But there shall by no means enter it [the New Jerusalem] anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

Revelation 22:19—“And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

“2 Chronicles 15:3–4”

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 Oct, 26, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Our congregation just completed our observance of the Feast of Tabernacles (which included an eighth day). I gave two similar sermons at both our convention sites in Big Sandy and Destin, Fla.

The titles of the sermons were 2 Chronicles 15:3 and 2 Chronicles 15:4. I combined the information given in those sermons into this article.

2 Chronicles 15:2-7

Azariah passed along a message from God to Asa, and to all of Judah and Benjamin.

In the two sermons at the Feast, I consecutively focused on verses 3 and 4. This article combines those two verses.

2 Chronicles 15:3

This verse mentioned three behaviors that were lacking among the tribes of Israel

called Judah and Benjamin.

- Without the true God
- Without a teaching priest
- Without law

Without the true God

■ Exodus 12:12—When the Lord spoke to Moses during the events involving the Passover, He said: “I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt.”

■ Exodus 20:3—The first commandment is: “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

■ Isaiah 40:12-14—The Lord asked questions that pointed to His sovereignty.

■ Isaiah 40:21-22—The Lord reminded the readers that He sits above the earth and the inhabitants are like grasshoppers.

■ Isaiah 45:5-7—The Lord reminded the readers that there is no God beside Him.

■ Isaiah 45:18-20—The Lord again reminded the readers about His sovereignty.

■ Acts 17:27—Paul reminded the people that God was not far from them.

Without a teaching priest

It is valuable if disciples understand the various functions of a priest. This presentation focused upon the fact that the priests were to be teachers.

■ Hebrews 5:12-14—It is important that disciples learn to be teachers.

Two important traits about being a teacher are: (1) knowing the material and (2) knowing how to reach people.

In the sermon, I described four individual groups listed in 1 Corinthians 9:19-22—challenging audience members to consider if they were learning to effectively reach the four groups.

■ “To the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews.”

■ “To those who are under the law as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law.

■ “To those who are without law as without law, that I might win those who are without law.”

■ “To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak.”

Paul continued the thought by saying: “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

Without law

Notice a contrasting approach to the law.

■ Galatians 2:4—False brethren came among the Church of God to lead people into the bondage of the law.

■ Jude 4—Ungodly men turned grace into lawlessness.

2 Chronicles 15:4

What does it mean when the Bible says that the Lord “forsakes” people?

2 Chronicles 15:2—“The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.”

2 Chronicles 15:4—“When in their trouble, they turned to the Lord God for Israel and sought Him—He was found by them.”

Hebrews 13:5—The Lord said: “I will never leave you nor forsake you”—quoting

from Deuteronomy 31:6-8 and Joshua 1:5.

It is my belief that 2 Chronicles 15:2 reveals that the Lord might temporarily withdraw from a person, but that 2 Chronicles 15:4 shows that He is always close—to create reconciliation.

Correction by a loving Father

Hebrews 12:5-8—God is like a Father who loves His children because He loves them.

Hebrews 12:9-11—People accept it when their physical fathers correct them, so why can’t disciples accept it when our Heavenly Father corrects us?

The Lord sometimes says “no”

■ Deuteronomy 3:23-27—Moses asked to go to see the Promised Land and the Lord said “no”—because of Moses’ behavior (whether you either want to call it sin or simply a mistake).

■ 2 Samuel 12:15-23—David asked for his child to be healed, and the Lord said “no”—because of David’s sins.

■ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10—Paul asked three times for a “thorn in the flesh” to be removed, and the Lord said “no”—to demonstrate the Lord’s power and sovereignty.

Our obedience blesses us

Some people often say things like: “The God of the Old Testament is tough, but the God of the New Testament is kind and loving.”

That is not my view of the Lord. Notice the kind and loving approach of the Lord in the following Old Testament scriptures.

■ Ezekiel 18:20—“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.”

■ Ezekiel 18:21-22—“Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies. Therefore turn and live!”

God’s promise

■ Philippians 1:6—“Being confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”