

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 19, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:25

Bible studies

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

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

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading 1 Thessalonians 4:1–18

Sermon Dave Havis

Quick takes

1. Thank you to Bill Crow—Our congregation thanks Bill Crow of the Houston area for donating sound equipment to our congregation. (Mr. Crow had offered the equipment many months ago, but Dave Havis did not get on the ball to go pick it up. Mr. Havis thanks Mr. Crow for his patience.)
2. Thank you to Neil McIver and Daniel Hammons—Our congregation thanks Neil McIver and Daniel Hammons for traveling to the Houston area to pick up the donated sound equipment and to speak at the Katy congregation.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—July 23 at 7:00.
4. Celebrating with Melodee Searls and Anthony Kimmons—Melodee Searls and Anthony Kimmons invite everyone to a meal in the building on July 25, at 6:00 p.m. (They ask you to join them for food, fellowship and games.)
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Does the Bible Recommend Small Congregations?" by Reg Killingley.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Eighth Commandment" by Dave Havis.
7. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Lisa Smith** was diagnosed with diverticulitis. She reports that she still has issues with her stomach. She reported that the result of a CT scan revealed "a moderate fatty liver" and a possible mass. Mrs. Smith is making a change in her diet and asking you for your prayers.

In the July 5 bulletin, we mentioned that **Nancy Amburgey** had a recent episode that was identified as afib. She actually was able to attend the church service on July 5. On Saturday afternoon of July 12, Risé gave this update: "Sorry. Just now checking this phone. Mom has had a good week. We had planned to be at services today, but I picked up a respiratory bug. Thank everyone for prayers." We hope to see them at the church service today.

Ray Hall, who had to postpone his speaking in our congregation on July 5, continued to feel poorly this week. On Tuesday, he was hospitalized when his symptoms became worse. He reported that he was scheduled for surgery at 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday "to remove the little toe on his left foot and to debride [remove] infection in that area." Shortly before the surgery, Mr. Hall reported: "Things went so quickly from bad to worse that I didn't have time." On Friday, he reported that there may be another surgery—to remove tissue around the toe, but there is no expectation to remove anymore toes.

Morris Foster, who had to postpone his speaking in our congregation on July 12, continued to feel poorly this week. Even though we don't have all the details, we can certainly pray for him to feel better as quickly as possible.

In the May 10 bulletin, we mentioned that **Linda Moers** of Crockett was dealing with vocal-cord paralysis, which was affecting her breathing. In an update on June 7, we reported that she saw a laryngologist on June 4. She reported: "I'm in a holding pattern for right now. My left vocal cord is not working. The right cord is trying to move some. If he [the doctor] did something to make my voice better, it would make my breathing worse." Here are excerpts of an update on July 18: "I returned to the laryngologist two days ago. My vocal cords are slowly improving, and the doctor feels I have turned a corner but in the good sense. He said we didn't need to discuss a trach. My voice is much stronger, and I'm starting to sound more like myself. I am not as breathless when I talk. The doctor said that I am not out of the woods yet, because of the lingering breathing issues. I cannot thank everyone enough for your prayers, cards and words of encouragement. I thank God for each of you every day and ask that you will be blessed beyond measure."

New prayer requests

On Monday morning, **Gloria Hoppe** had a significant fall outside her front door. She banged her head and has a bruise on the left side of her forehead. She was reluctant to go to a hospital because of her understanding of Medicare procedures. (Later, some friends in the congregation sent **Dave Havir** their understanding of Medicare procedures, which he passed along to her.) She came to the building to be anointed, and it turned out to be a pleasant 100-minute visit in

air conditioning. Here is her update from Friday: "Healing quickly. My left side is still rather stove up, and the pain in that leg and hip is intense at night. There is limited use of my left hand. However, I am able to get around okay and get done what I need to do. All praise be to God for both the healing power He created to be part of the body automatically, as well as the extra power He provides as needed. Thank for the prayers and concern."

Since **Bill Weaver** is retiring as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Big Sandy, please pray that he and his wife, **Margie**, have a smooth transition.

Mike Kusheba of Liberty City died on⁶⁶ July 2. Please remember his wife, **Ruth**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

"Eighth Commandment"

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of July 19, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled "Eighth Commandment."

I decided to discuss five main concepts in the presentation.

Foundational scripture

■ Exodus 20:2—"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Eighth Commandment

■ Exodus 20:15—"You shall not steal."

Stealing from God

The Bible teaches the principle of tithing.

According to *Strong's Concordance*, the Hebrew word for tithe is *maser* (*Strong's* No. 4643), which is described this way: "tithe, setting aside a tenth." In the book

of Malachi, the Lord of hosts addressed the subject of tithes.

■ Malachi 3:8-10—The Lord of hosts said: "Will a man rob God? But you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this—if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

Many religious people have built a relationship with the Lord of hosts by giving Him a 10th of their income and by reaping the rewards of His promise.

At this time, I want to remind you about the history of our congregation concerning receiving tithes from individuals.

First—we have a clear history of not pressuring (or begging) people for tithe money.

Second—we thank the many people (often widows) who make any size of donation to our congregation.

Third—when we first started as a congregation, we originally provided a service of being a bookkeeper for congregations around the country (keeping their funds in separate categories for their use). We quickly encouraged the individual congregations

to handle their finances themselves.

Fourth—it is our tradition and practice that I as pastor do not see the details of tithes and offerings donated to our congregation.

Before we leave this topic, allow me to make a statement about tithing that is not taught by many religious organizations—the Bible shows that poor people do not necessarily pay tithes.

Someone could object: “Dave, you better have some good biblical reason for saying such a statement.”

Please consider Leviticus 27:32.

■ Leviticus 27:32—“And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.”

Did you catch that? The 10th animal was the tithe. What if the person had only six animals? (For the record, how this verse applies to modern financial structures would deserve quality examination and interpretation—but the overall principle was clear.)

Stealing items

■ Exodus 21:16—What did the Bible say about kidnapping?

■ Exodus 22:1-13—What did the Bible say about stealing animals?

■ Joshua 7:2-25—When the powerful people of Israel had trouble defeating the little country of Ai, Joshua wanted to know the reason—learning that Achan’s action of stealing (verse 21) had hindered them from having God’s blessing.

■ Proverbs 6:30-32—While stealing food is a sin and brings consequences, it is generally more understandable than adultery.

■ Luke 3:12-13—The Son of God told the tax collectors to avoid stealing.

■ John 18:40—Barabbas was a robber.

■ 1 Corinthians 5:11—Paul told his friends that there was a time to avoid sinners—including an extortioner.

■ 1 Corinthians 6:9-10—Paul said thieves would not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Stealing civil freedom

■ Matthew 20:25-28—Do not lord it over people, and do not exercise authority over people.

■ 1 Corinthians 15:24—Human rule, authority and power regularly steal civil freedom.

Stealing religious freedom

In 2 Corinthians 11:20, Paul was actually correcting the disciples who let people abuse them.

■ You put up with people taking you into bondage.

■ You put up with people devouring you.

■ You put up with people stealing from you.

■ You put up with people exalting themselves over you.

■ You put up with people hitting you.

As much as lies within your power, do not allow people to steal your religious freedom.

And, of course, do not be stealing the religious freedom of others.

■ Do not lead people into bondage.

■ Do not devour people.

■ Do not steal from people.

■ Do not exalt yourself over people.

■ Do not hit people.

Stealing truth—by substituting information for truth

■ Jeremiah 23:16—Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless. They speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD.”

■ Jeremiah 23:21—Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.”

■ Jeremiah 23:30-31—The Lord of hosts said: “Therefore behold, I am against the prophets, who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets, who use their tongues and say, ‘God says.’”

■ 2 Peter 2:1—There were false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you.

■ 2 Peter 2:2—Many will follow their destructive ways.

■ 2 Peter 2:3—By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words.