

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

June 13, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:30

### Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. . . . . Daniel Hammons  
Presentation study—2:00 . . . . . Daniel Hammons  
(also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Reg Killingley  
Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright  
Scripture reading . . . . . Psalm 103  
Sermon . . . . . Stan West

### Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir will give two presentations in Kansas City.
2. Thank you—Greg Smith and his family thank the congregation for the use of our church building at the memorial service for his wife (Minette) last Sunday. (Attendance was estimated at around 240 and about 125 stayed for food.)
3. Board nominees—David Coleman, Melodee Kimmons, Doyle Welborn, Stan West.
4. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
5. Wednesday-night Bible study—June 17 at 7:00.
6. Edifying the Body—"God's Miraculous 'Whoever' Policy" by Max Lucado.
7. Among Friends—"2 Thessalonians 3—Part 1" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—Compiled by Stephanie Hammons.

### Prayer updates

**Linda Avey** died on June 8, which was her 74th birthday. (A celebration-of-life service is scheduled in our building on July 5.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Barbara Lingle** requests prayer for **Elaine Townsend** (at the Treviso Care facility in Longview) to have a calm demeanor.

**Donna Bradley** of Big Sandy died on June 8. Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Evelyn Dunne** of Arlington died on June 10. Please remember the family in your prayers.

## “God’s Miraculous ‘Whoever’ Policy”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://churchofgodbigsandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of June 13, 2026. (A version was posted at [foxnews.com](http://foxnews.com) on Feb. 13, 2022.)

**By Max Lucado**

**S**AN ANTONIO, Texas—Sometimes I detect my favorite fragrance wafting from the kitchen: strawberry cake. I follow the smell like a bird dog follows a trail until I’m standing over the just-baked, just-iced pan of pure pleasure.

Yet I’ve learned to still my fork until Denalyn gives clearance. “Who is it for?” I ask. She might break my heart. “It’s for a birthday party, Max. Don’t touch it!” Or “For a friend. Stay away.” Or she might throw open the door of delight. “Whoever.” And, since I qualify as a “whoever,” I dig in.

Thankfully for us, God’s gospel includes a “whoever” policy that’s always open for business. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that `believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV, emphasis mine).

Whoever unfurls 3:16 as a banner for the ages. Whoever unrolls the welcome mat of heaven to humanity. Whoever invites the world to God.

Jesus could have so easily narrowed the scope, changing whoever into whatever. “Whatever Jew believes” or “Whatever woman follows me.” But He used no qualifier. The pronoun is wonderfully indefinite. After all, who isn’t a whoever?

- The word sledgehammers racial fences and dynamites social classes.

- It bypasses gender borders and surpasses ancient traditions.

- Whoever makes it clear: God exports His grace worldwide. For those who attempt to restrict it, Jesus has a word: Whoever.

- Whoever acknowledges me before men,

I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven (Matthew 10:32).

- Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it (Matthew 10:39).

- Whoever does God’s will is My brother and sister and mother (Mark 3:35).

- Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (Mark 16:16).

- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him (John 3:36).

- Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst (John 4:14).

- Whoever comes to Me I will never drive away (John 6:37).

- Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die (John 11:26).

- Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life (Rev. 22:17).

The downturns of life can create such a sad state of affairs that we wonder if God still wants us. But God’s “whoever” policy has a “however” benefit. Just ask Lazarus, the street sleeper with dogs licking his sores. There’s no need to clean up or climb up. Just look up. God takes you however he finds you.

This policy also features a “whenever” clause. Whenever you hear God’s voice, He welcomes your response. Sometimes we think the invitation has expired. We’ve waited too long. But just ask the last-minute vineyard workers in Jesus’ parable who were paid the same wages as the all-day workers: God

offers 11th-hour grace.

We may struggle with such a thought. A last-minute confessor receives the same grace as a lifetime servant? Doesn't seem fair. But request grace with your dying breath and God hears your prayer. Whoever means "whenever."

And there's one more clause: Whoever means "wherever." Wherever you are, you're not too far to come home. Just ask the prodigal son.

We may lose sobriety, solvency and sanity. We may lose jobs and chances, youth and vigor, idealism and dreams.

But we never lose our place on God's "whoever" list.

Whoever—God's wonderful word of welcome.

No status too low. No hour too late. No place too far. However. Whenever. Wherever.

Whoever includes you . . . forever.

## "2 Thessalonians 3—Part 1"

This article was posted in the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website ([churchofgodbig sandy.com](http://churchofgodbig sandy.com)) for the weekend of June 13, 2026.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was "2 Thessalonians 3—Part 1."

In the previous two presentations, I covered 2 Thessalonians 2 in two consecutive presentations. After reviewing the material in 2 Thessalonians 3, I decided to cover the material in two presentations instead of in one presentation.

### Requested prayers

At the beginning of chapter 3, the apostle Paul requested prayers. Notice what the specific prayer requests were.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:1—Paul asked that the brethren pray that the Word of the Lord would be glorified.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:2—Paul asked that the brethren pray that Paul (and his traveling companions) would be delivered from unreasonable and wicked people.

### Reminders about evil

In the Bible study on April 15, 2026 (written about for the weekend of April 18), I talked about some of the evil that Paul faced.

■ Acts 15:41—After the conference in Jerusalem, Paul and Silas traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the brethren.

■ Acts 16:9—A vision appeared to Paul saying: "Come over to Macedonia and help us"—Macedonia is where Philippi, Thessalo-

nica and Berea were located.

■ Acts 16:12—After a long journey, they arrived in Philippi.

■ Acts 16:19—In Philippi, they were dragged before the authorities.

■ Acts 16:22-23—In Philippi, they were beaten with rods and thrown into jail.

■ Acts 17:1—After being released from jail, they traveled to Thessalonica.

■ Acts 17:5—In Thessalonica, evil men gathered a mob against them.

■ Acts 17:10—The brethren in Thessalonica were so concerned about Paul's and Silas's safety, that they sent them to Berea—at night.

■ Acts 17:13—When the mob learned that the Word of God was preached by Paul in Berea, they went there and stirred up the crowds.

■ Acts 17:14—The brethren in Berea were so concerned about Paul's safety, that they sent him (by sea) to Athens.

### Guarded from the evil one

Back to 2 Thessalonians 3.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:3—Paul wrote: "But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one."

Notice words that the Son of God said about the evil one.

■ Matthew 13:19—In Matthew's description about the parable of the sower, the Son of God is quoted as saying: "When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom (and does not understand it), then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was

sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

■ Luke 8:12—In Luke’s description of the parable of the sower, the Son of God is depicted as saying: “Those by the wayside are the ones who hear. Then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

■ John 17:15—When John quoted the beautiful prayer said by the Son to the Father, notice what he wrote: “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.”

### Follow the instructions

Back to 2 Thessalonians 3.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:4—Paul expressed that they had confidence that the brethren would follow the instructions given to them.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:5—Paul reminded them that the Lord would direct their hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

### Withdrawing from brothers

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:6—At this point in the letter, Paul talked about withdrawing from brothers.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (and 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15), are the reason I chose to cover this chapter in two Bible studies (and in two articles) instead of one. I invite you to study those verses before you hear the next Bible study and before you read the next article.

At this point, let’s focus on the instructions. Next week, we will consider those verses.

### Instructions about working

In 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12, Paul gave them instructions about working. I like to describe the instructions as two main categories.

■ First—Paul’s writing included comments about people getting paid to preach the gospel.

■ Second—There were general instructions about being good workers.

### Paid to preach

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9—Paul reminded the brethren in Thessalonica how he worked instead of taking the privilege of accepting money for preaching the gospel.

In the Bible study on April 22, 2026 (written about for the weekend of April 25), we talked about the same subject in 1 Thessalonians 2:9.

■ 1 Thessalonians 2:9—Paul reminded the brethren that he (and others) worked jobs to serve them (although they received financial support at other cities).

■ Acts 18:1—Paul went to Corinth for 18 months (verse 11).

■ Acts 18:2—Aquila and Priscilla had the same occupation (tent makers) as Paul.

■ 1 Corinthians 9:1-2—Didn’t Paul have the rights as other apostles?

■ 1 Corinthians 9:4—Didn’t Paul have the right to eat and drink?

■ 1 Corinthians 9:5—Didn’t Paul have the right to marry?

■ 1 Corinthians 9:6—Didn’t Barnabas and Paul have the right to receive funds for preaching the gospel?

### Good workers

Paul’s letter was also a general instruction about being a good worker.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:10—Paul reminded them of words he had previously said to them: “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:11—Some people were not working, but spent their time being busybodies.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:12—Paul exhorted people (using the name of our Savior) to be workers.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:13—Paul said: “Do not grow weary in doing good.”

### One more study

As I mentioned earlier, we will conclude the series of 1 and 2 Thessalonians with next week’s Wednesday-night Bible study (June 17) and with next week’s article in “Among Friends”(June 20).

If you have time, consider the following verses.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:6

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15