

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 18, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:16

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Kemmer Pfund

Presentation study—2:00 Scott Hoefker
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Ron Avey

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Daniel 6:1–24

Sermon Scott Hoefker

Quick takes

1. Wedding announcement—On Sept. 13, 2021, Veronica Miles and Christophy Beasley had a small private wedding ceremony. They are anticipating a large public ceremony next November. Congratulations.
2. Graduation announcement—Today, Mariah Johnson (daughter of Veronica Beasley) graduates *magna cum laude* at the University of Texas Arlington. Congratulations.
3. Engagement announcement—Carol Bald and John O'Brien are pleased to announce their engagement—which occurred on Thanksgiving (Nov. 24). A wedding date has not yet been set. Congratulations.
4. Upcoming speakers—We are pleased to announce the following traveling speakers coming to our congregation.

■ Today	Scott Hoefker
■ Jan. 8	Blake Silverstein
■ Jan. 22	Wynn Skelton
5. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service: Mickey Ashcraft, David and Becky Bonilla, Timberly Dunnam, Elaine Holloway, Annette Payne, Ruth Roe, Sonny Rosenberger, Ronnie Shirley, Elaine Townsend and Donna Weese.

6. Wednesday-night Bible study on Dec. 22—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is scheduled for Dec. 22.
7. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Let States Protect Their Unborn Children" by Alison Centofante.
8. Among Friends—This week's article is "Matthew 25:31–46" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 40 pages. (This edition has 10 articles and 256 headlines.)

Prayer updates

Timberly Dunnam had a good week—successfully managing the pain as it arose. The family continues to wait to hear from Longview Orthopedics to establish an appointment.

Doyle Welborn had a good week doing physical therapy on his own in his home. On Thursday, he began walking slowly without a cane.

New prayer requests

Last Saturday, **David Bonilla** went to the ER after falling and hurting his hip. At the hospital, he was diagnosed with a broken right arm and right hip. (**Becky** attributed the injuries to his being "weakened from his last stroke.") On Sunday, he had hip surgery—putting a metal rod from his right hip to his knee. Here are excerpts from a report by Becky on Friday: "He is now home trying to adjust to new challenges with home health, occupational therapy and physical therapy in our home. His right arm is still in a sling. He is keeping a happy attitude. Thanks for the love and continued prayers."

Vern Case was diagnosed with covid and has been receiving oxygen at Longview Regional Hospital.

Chuck Calahan (who has returned to attending in the CGI congregation in Tyler because it is closer) is scheduled to have heart tests on Jan. 7—to see about his aortic valve. He and his daughters **Linda Gallia** and **Sue Johns** appreciate your prayers for him.

Chuck Ragland of Lindale (father of **Diana Havir**), who has been dealing with various health problems for the past two years, had a cardiac procedure on Thursday that revealed some "concerning" heart issues. On Friday, he started the day off with a cardiac catheter and ended up receiving a defibrillator implant.

Liam DuPont of Robstown (9-month-old son of **Reggie** and **Colleen DuPont**) has been receiving daily dialysis administered at home by his mother. There have been discussions of his receiving a kidney transplant (close to when he will be 6 years old). The family appreciates your prayers.

Rainer Barth of Dresden, Germany (who two years ago had a small portion of his intestinal tract removed because of cancer and had been recovering well), has been diagnosed with cancer in his liver, pancreas and spinal vertebrae.

Melissa Puzerov of Rowlett has been diagnosed with tumors in her brain.

Individuals who have been diagnosed with covid include the following: **Milly Orr** of Prairie Village, Kan., **Ken Skorseth** of Gary, S.D., and **Lisa Whitaker** of Edinburg, Pa.

David Goodrich of Brookings, Ore., died on Nov. 20. Please remember his wife, **Kandy**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Lonny Arbogast of Newport, Tenn., died on Nov. 27. Please remember his family in your prayers.

Brad Ellis of Kailua Kona, Hawaii, died on Dec. 11. Please remember his wife, **Sherry**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Lee Stolley of the local United congregation died on Dec. 14. (A memorial service is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 16, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

Death of the Son of God

Romans 5:6-8—For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 2:14-15—Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 9:7—But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:11-14—But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:24-28—For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

“Matthew 25:31–46”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 18, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 25. After presenting the material orally on Wednesday night, I decided to write a short article about the material for the Saturday bulletin.

Today we will talk about Matthew 25:31-46.

Throne of His glory

Matthew 25:31—“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”

Revelation 3:21—“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Sheep and goats

Matthew 25:32-33—“All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.”

Blessings and consequences

In verses 34-46, the Son of God discusses both the blessings and the consequences for their behavior.

Since I prefer to end the article with Christian-living principles, I will first talk about the consequences, and then I will discuss the instructions about behavior.

Consequences including torment

Notice some verses that talk about serious consequences. (Many Bible students of most Christian denominations use the following verses to accept and to teach the concept of an ever-burning hellfire.)

Matthew 25:41—“Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Matthew 25:46—“These will go away into everlasting punishment.”

Revelation 14:10-11—“He [who worships the beast] shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.”

Revelation 19:20—“These two [beast and false prophet] were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

Revelation 20:10—“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Consequence of the second death

Why is it that most Bible students among the Church of God congregations do not believe in an ever-burning hellfire?

Such Bible students believe that the phrase “second death” (mentioned in Revelation 20:14-15 and Revelation 21:8) explains a conclusion to the lives of unrepentant sinners.

Contrasting behaviors

In Matthew 25:35-36, the Son of God mentioned six behaviors that the sheep did. In Matthew 25:42-43, the Son of God mentioned six behaviors that the goats did not do.

■ Saw Christ hungry—did you give Him food?

■ Saw Christ thirsty—did you give Him drink?

■ Saw Christ as a stranger—did you take Him in?

■ Saw Christ naked—did you clothe Him?

■ Saw Christ sick—did you visit Him?

■ Saw Christ in prison—did you visit Him?

When did you see Him?

Matthew 25:40—“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’”