

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

March 11, 2017 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:23

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Clay Forrestier
Pianist	Video accompaniment
First sermon	Dave Havir
Teen class—Library	Martha McIver
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Second sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Remembering calendar events concerning the spring feast days—Here are some reminders about calendar events concerning the spring feast days.
 - Sunday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m.—Picturing the night that Christ was betrayed using New Testament symbols
 - Monday, April 10, at 3:00 p.m.—Picturing the time of Christ's death
 - Monday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m.—Dave and Pam Havir invite anyone in the congregation to attend a meal in the building on the eve of the first day of Unleavened Bread (Monday, April 10).
 - Tuesday, April 11—First day of Unleavened Bread with a church service at 2:00 p.m. and a potluck meal at 4:00 p.m.
 - Thursday, April 13—Remembering events about the resurrection
 - Monday, April 17—Seventh day of Unleavened Bread with a church service at 2:00 p.m. and a potluck meal at 4:00 p.m.
2. Thank you—Thanks to Andrew McIver (sound technician) and Clay Forrestier (stage manager) who were instrumental in the success of the community event in the building last Saturday evening.
3. Daylight-saving time tomorrow—This is a reminder that daylight-saving time begins early tomorrow morning.
4. Senior-citizen meal on March 25—There is a senior-citizen meal scheduled shortly after the church service on March 25. Please sign the list on the Information Table.

5. Guest speaker on April 8—We are pleased to announce that Bernie and Paula Monsalvo are scheduled to visit the area on April 8. Mr. Monsalvo agreed to give a sermon on that day.
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Will Islam Overtake Christianity?" by Patrick Goodenough.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "Romans 12:21—Part 1" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 24 pages.
9. Since this bulletin was produced on Wednesday, it will not contain the latest health updates and requests.

Prayer updates

Jerry Thompson (who previously had two laser surgeries on his right eye and one laser surgery on his left eye) had a second laser surgery on his left eye this past Monday. This one was different in that he experienced significant pain following the surgery. He is scheduled to see the doctor again on March 27 and April 10.

Ron and **Gracie Feaker** have been dealing with bronchitis this week.

Elaine Holloway reports that she is still dealing with the pain and discomfort of shingles.

Laura Moran continues to deal with the effects of bronchitis.

Annette Payne reports that she still has some periodic pain in her legs and foot.

Joy Hughes of The Woodlands continues to deal with the effects of pneumonia.

Bailey Lucas (granddaughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**), who had her appendix removed at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler on Friday, Feb. 24, went home last Saturday. However, on Monday she went to the Children's Hospital in Dallas to be treated for an infection. The family appreciates your prayers for the trial of this 10-year-old girl and the extended family.

In the Jan. 21 bulletin, we mentioned that **Mike Roth** of Rio Rico, Ariz., had his second chemo treatment. His family reported that he has now completed his 28th treatment of radiation. He is anticipating surgery to remove a tumor.

In the Feb. 11 bulletin, we mentioned that **Rebecca Hollon** of Cincinnati, Ohio, learned during an anticipated hysterectomy that she has cancer. She has been diagnosed as stage-4. On March 6, she was scheduled to begin an alternative treatment called Issels integrative oncology—which includes restrictive diet, exercise, massage, acupuncture, intravenous vitamin C and hyperbaric-oxygen therapy. The family appreciates your prayers.

In the Feb. 11 bulletin, we mentioned **Ken Swiger** of Knoxville, Tenn., had a heart catheterization. He reports that he is anticipating to receive an implanted defibrillator and a three-wire pacemaker.

In the Jan. 7 bulletin, we mentioned that **Cledice Decker** of Pasadena, Calif., was anticipating moving to a rehab center to work on her swallowing and speaking. We learned this week that she had returned to a hospital due an infection in the lining of her stomach.

New prayer requests

Willie Choate, who was planning to come to the church service last week, went to the Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview last Saturday due to discomfort. He was kept overnight and diagnosed with a stomach virus. He began feeling better through the week. (He mentioned that he appreciates the prayers of the congregation for his battle with discouragement.)

Paula Monsalvo of Mobile, Ala., is scheduled for knee-replacement surgery on April 19.

Although some of you may already be aware of this situation, **Carolyn Chase** of College Station (sister of **Vonda Ouellette**) is dealing with heart-related challenges. Years ago, she has had strokes and clogged arteries. Family members are concerned that she is dealing with a recurrence of clogged arteries.

Brian Biggs (son of **Judy Biggs**) is dealing with some ongoing health challenges.

On Tuesday, **George Gainey** of Pierson, Fla., was scheduled for surgery to remove a tumor in his throat.

Charlotte Overby of Morganton, N.C., died on March 2. Please remember her family in your prayers.

“Romans 12:21—Part 1”

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 March 11, 2017.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—In the articles for this week and next week, I want to discuss Romans 12:21.

Romans 12:21—“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

This week, we will look at the first part of that verse—do not be overcome by evil.

As I begin this article, I want to mention that I may ask some questions that could be an interesting topic for a philosophical discussion. But I don’t view this article as discussing philosophy.

I know sincere people who abuse alco-

hol, use drugs, commit adultery and do other unsavory deeds. I hope this article (and next week’s article) will help sincere people to find help—by avoiding being overcome by evil.

Inherently evil?

Here is a question to consider—Are people inherently good or evil?

For the record, I do not believe that people are inherently evil—although I recognize scriptures that reveal the history of evil deeds done by people.

Before I give my opinion about “why” I

don't believe that people are inherently evil, I want to share a few scriptures that clearly demonstrate that people regularly perform evil deeds.

- Genesis 6:5.
- Jeremiah 17:9.
- Romans 3:10-18.
- Romans 8:7.

Creation was good

My perspective goes back to the first three chapters in the book of Genesis. My perspective goes back to the creation and to the words in Genesis 1:31.

Genesis 1:31—"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

■ I am among the many people who have difficulty believing that God made mankind evil.

■ Sure, the scriptures and history show that mankind performed much evil.

■ But I am among the many people who believe that God made mankind good—with the susceptibility to do evil.

■ Some people like to say that God made mankind "neutral" to accept the evil influences.

■ Bible students like myself (who believe that mankind was either created good or neutral) avoid the theory that God made mankind evil. Rather, we believe that human beings do evil deeds.

How quickly?

How quickly does the process of doing evil occur?

When the Bible quotes God's words after the Flood, we receive a clue to how quickly the process occurs.

Genesis 8:21—"Then the LORD said in His heart, 'I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.' "

Names of tempter

There are many scriptures in the Bible that describe an evil source that influences people to sin. He is called by many names. Here are a few of his names.

- Genesis 3:1—cunning serpent

■ Matthew 4:1—the devil who tempted Christ

■ Revelation 12:9—great dragon, serpent of old, devil, Satan

■ Revelation 20:2—the dragon, serpent of old, devil, Satan

History of influencing

Let's notice some scriptures that give a brief history of the devil's involvement in negatively influencing mankind.

- Genesis 3:1-6.
- Job 1:11-12.
- Job 2:4-6.
- John 8:44.
- John 13:27.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14.
- Ephesians 2:2-3
- Revelation 12:12.
- Revelation 13:4.
- Revelation 13:11.

Can disciples still sin?

As we begin to transition toward next week's article, I would like to ask the question—Can people who have a personal relationship with God still sin?

My answer is yes.

But I know people who quote a verse to me in the defense of their view that disciples who have a personal relationship with God today cannot sin. They quote 1 John 3:9.

I believe that it is important to read 1 John 3:9 in conjunction with Romans 7:14-25.

Realistic application

While it can be interesting to discuss 1 John 3:9 and Romans 7:14-25 in a philosophical manner, I am more interested in viewing it in a practical manner.

As stated in the beginning, the purpose of this article is to look at the phrase—do not be overcome by evil.

■ I believe that it is possible for disciples to sin.

■ I believe that it is likely that disciples will sin.

■ As I mentioned at the beginning, this article is about helping sincere people find help—to avoid being overcome by evil.

■ And I hope that next week's article will help people to overcome evil with good.