

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 5, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Bible study and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir

Bible study (2:00) Dave Havir

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are maturely and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.
2. Prayers for victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
3. Reminders for attending—Here are some reminders for people who choose to attend the church service in the building.
 - We do not provide masks or gloves. If these are important to you, please bring your own.
 - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.
4. Upcoming guest speakers—Dave Havir is pleased to announce that guest speakers are planning to join us over the coming weeks. Following is the revised schedule.
 - Dec. 19 Bill Crow
 - Dec. 26 Blake Silverstein

5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "On the Worst Day of Our Life, God Is Still There" by Debbie Aylsworth.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Amos 5:18" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 28 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who live at home but are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Sonny Rosenberger, Laura Moran, Annette Payne, Ronnie Shirley** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Please remember to pray for the following people who are rehabbing at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater—**Ron Feaker** and **Elaine Holloway**.

Eli and **Jean Benedict** thank you for your ongoing prayers. Two of the issues that Mr. Benedict continues to endure are the itching skin and the eye discomfort.

Laura Moran, who had trouble with new dentures that caused her to have an infection in her mouth, returned to the dentist on Tuesday for him to begin the process of fixing the problem. Also, Mrs. Moran postponed her scheduled visit to a dietitian until this coming Tuesday.

Grace Kouniadis of Carrollton (sister of **Laura Moran**) is anticipating moving into Park Place in Tyler.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Jeannette Reinoso** of Sachse was recovering nicely from her recent surgery (lumpectomy from each breast to remove both masses). Following is an excerpt from Mrs. Reinoso: "I am healing well and can begin exercises that will aid my recovery. The pathology report indicated that all detectable cancer was removed. The surgeon felt confident, saying that I am 'cancer-free.' We will meet with a radiation oncologist and a medical oncologist to make decisions about the type of radiation to receive and whether to take steps to block the hormones which fed my cancer. Grateful for you and your petitions to God on our behalf."

For many months, we have requested prayers for **Jerry Jones** of Ojai, Calif., who has been diagnosed with lymphoma. On Friday, his wife, **Bobbi**, informed **Dave Havir** that hospice personnel have informed the family that her husband's death is imminent. (Mr. and Mrs. Jones are part of our extended congregation that regularly attends our Western Feast sites.)

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Annette Payne** went to a hospital to visit her son **Willie Landrum**, who had been diagnosed with stage-4 liver cancer. While there, a wheel from her wheelchair broke and she fell to the ground—hitting her head. Once her vomiting stopped, she was able to return home that same day. (Mr. Landrum eventually died on Wednesday. See the announcement on the next page.) Her children have been monitoring her at home. On Friday, she went to the doctor to check on the effects of the fall. He gave a good report.

Shirley Ellison of the local United congregation has tested positive for covid. (In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that her husband, **Vernon Ellison**, had fallen and had gone to a hospital.)

Paul Sniffen of Memphis, Tenn., had a stroke.

Socorro Martinez (formerly of Pasadena, Calif.) died on Nov. 26. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Walter Williams of Fairfax, Va., died on Dec. 2. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Willie Landrum of Ore City (son of **Annette Payne**) died on Dec. 2. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Death of the Son

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.

“Amos 5:18”

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. 5, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—On Nov. 14, I began a series of articles about the book of Amos. The first article was titled “Overview of the Book of Amos.”

Since that time, I chose to write about various verses from the book of Amos. This article will discuss Amos 5:18.

Reason for choosing

Someone could ask: Why did you choose to write about Amos 5:18?

My answer: I wanted to caution friends and associates to be careful about how they view the subject of prophecy.

See what it says

Let’s see what Amos 5:18 says.

Amos 5:18—“Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.”

Although the New King James Version is accurate and clear, let’s notice another Bible translation and one paraphrase.

James Moffatt translation: “You long for the day of the Eternal? Ah, what will that avail you, so eager to avert the evil day, so keen upon injustice?”

The Living Bible (paraphrased): “You say, ‘If only the Day of the Lord were here, for then God would deliver us from all our foes.’ But you have no idea what you ask. For that day will not be light and prosperity, but darkness and doom! How terrible the darkness will be for you; not a ray of joy or hope will shine.”

Gleeful about calamity?

It is understandable when some Bible students seem eager for the arrival of the Day of the Lord—because they view the events of the Day of the Lord as bringing the world closer to the return of the Son of God.

Bible students are aware of the biblical pattern of calamity preceding restoration. Therefore, they want the calamity of the Day of the Lord to come so that the world can receive the restoration of the return of the Son of God.

Yet, Bible students should be careful when contemplating how God will deal with evil.

- Bible students may long for the destruction of evil governments and evil systems.

- But Bible students should avoid being gleeful over the prospect of people being punished for doing evil behavior.

Back to the context

To notice the context of what Amos said in Amos 5:18, let’s return to the surrounding verses.

Amos 5:16-20—“Therefore the LORD God of hosts, the LORD, says this: ‘There shall be wailing in all streets, and they shall say in all the highways, ‘Alas! Alas!’ They shall call the farmer to mourning, and skillful lamenters to wailing. In all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through you,” says the LORD. Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?”

Additional descriptions

There are other descriptions in the Old Testament about the Day of the Lord. Here are three additional sections of Scripture.

- Joel 2:1-11—A day of darkness and gloominess

- Joel 2:12-17—A day of fasting and repentance

- Zephaniah 1:14-18—A day of trouble and devastation

Four positive traits

Zephaniah 3:1-2 mentions four traits that displease God. When a Bible student recognizes the opposite traits of the four, he can see characteristics that please God.

- Obey His voice.

- Receive correction (and instruction).

- Trust in the Lord.

- Draw near to your God.