

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 20, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:16

Bible studies

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

Presentation study—2:00 Ben Mauldin III
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Revelation 3:14–22

Sermon Ben Mauldin III

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Ben Mauldin III from the Waco area. He is scheduled to give the 2:00 Bible study and the sermon during the 3:00 church service.
2. Community Thanksgiving service—Citizens from Big Sandy and surrounding communities are invited to the annual community Thanksgiving service on Sunday evening.
 - Date Nov. 21
 - Time 5:00 p.m.
 - Location Civic Center (former Church of Christ)
 - Address 612 N. Tyler St. (Highway 155 North)
 - Format Each group has a short presentation
 - Our group Shirley West will read her article.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study on Nov. 24—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is scheduled for Nov. 24.

4. Upcoming speakers—We are pleased to announce that various speakers from sister congregations are reviewing their personal schedule as they prepare to give a commitment to Dave Havir. Following is the schedule for the near future.
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| ■ Today | Ben Mauldin III |
| ■ Dec. 4 | Terry Post |
| ■ Dec. 11 | Richard Crow |
| ■ Dec. 18 | Scott Hoefker |
| ■ Jan. 8 | Blake Silverstein |
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Wit and Wisdom of Thomas Sowell" by Kyle Smith.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Matthew 24:42–54" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 38 pages.

Prayer updates

In recent bulletins, we mentioned that **Timberly Dunnam** was dealing with severe pain while she was diagnosed with a kidney stone. On Wednesday, she returned to the hospital with another episode of severe pain. A doctor told the family that a CT scan showed no visible sign of a kidney stone (but that doesn't prove that a stone is not there). Next Tuesday, she is scheduled to see a doctor about the possibility of the problem being with the gallbladder. The family appreciates your prayers.

Weeks ago, we mentioned that **Doyle Welborn** had been scheduled for hip-replacement surgery and that it was postponed at the time. It was rescheduled for yesterday. He and **Karen** appreciated your prayers before the surgery and are thankful for your continued prayers for his speedy recovery.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Gary Woodring** had a recurrence of pain in his chest and went by ambulance (for the third time in a short period) to the hospital and was admitted. Although surgery was discussed, it was decided for him to return home and to take a strong form of nitroglycerin every day. He appreciates your prayers.

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Leslie Harroff** hurt her lower back and hip, which caused her to have pain throughout the week. Since she is an active person, it was difficult for her to remain housebound.

In the Oct. 16 bulletin, we mentioned that **Carmen Chapman** of Florida had been diagnosed with leukemia. Although we have no details, we heard that she recently died. Please remember the family in your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Joan Rude** of Scottsburg, Ore., had died a month earlier. (The actual date was Sept. 10.) Also, in last week's bulletin, we mentioned that Mrs. Rude's husband, **Noel**, had suffered a stroke. He died on Nov. 11. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Eye on the World

- An article by John Haltiwanger titled “China Passes Resolution Putting Xi Jinping on the Same Level as Mao, Paving Way for His Indefinite Rule” was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Nov. 11, 2021.
- An article by Greer Fay Cashman titled “Israeli, Chinese Presidents Discuss Iran in First-Ever Call” was posted at [jpost.com](https://www.jpost.com) on Nov. 17, 2021.
- An article by Martyn McLaughlin titled “COP26: Carbon Footprint of COP26 in Glasgow More Than Double That of COP25 [to the Tune of ‘About 102,500 Tons of Carbon Dioxide’]” was posted at [scotsman.com](https://www.scotsman.com) on Nov. 11, 2021.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “COP26 Head [Alok Sharma of Britain]: China and India Will Have to Justify Watering Down Coal Commitment in Climate Pact” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Nov. 15, 2021.
- An article by Emma Gatten titled “COP26 Deal Falters as China Calls on Countries to Decide Their Own Emissions Cuts” was posted at [telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk) on Nov. 14, 2021.
- An article by Olivia Rudgard titled “COP26 Deal Falters After 48 Hours as U.S. and Australia Hint at No New Targets Next Year” was posted at [telegraph.co.uk](https://www.telegraph.co.uk) on Nov. 15, 2021.
- Looking back to May, an article titled “China Uses Uyghur Forced Labor to Make Solar Panels, Says Report” was posted at [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) on May 14, 2021.
- A video and article by Staff titled “Republican Winsome Sears: Voters Are ‘Tired of Politicians Who Won’t Let the Wounds of the Past Heal’ ” were posted at [dailywire.com](https://www.dailywire.com) on Nov. 14, 2021.
- An article by black journalist Jason Whitlock titled “[Kyle] Rittenhouse Trial Demonstrates the Folly of ‘Racial Justice’ and Trolling White Conservatives” was posted at [theblaze.com](https://www.theblaze.com) on Nov. 16, 2021.
- An article by Warner Todd Huston titled “ ‘Lucifer’ Actress Lesley-Ann Brandt Boasts That Abortion Helped Her Career—[She] Killed Baby While Filming ‘Killing Women’ Series” was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Nov. 11, 2021.
- An article by Sara Cline titled “Portland Among U.S. Cities Adding Funds to Police Departments” was posted at [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) on Nov. 17, 2021.
- An article by Terence P. Jeffrey titled “23 Aliens Previously Convicted of Homicide Charged With Illegal Reentry in Arizona in Biden’s First 9 Months” was posted at [creators.com](https://www.creators.com) on Nov. 17, 2021.
- An article by Eli Rosenberg titled “Federal Appeals Court Halts Biden Administration’s Vaccine Requirement, Delivering Policy a Major Blow” was posted at [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com) on Nov. 12, 2021.
- An article by Leah Barkoukis titled “After Quickly Approving Pfizer Vaccine, FDA Now Wants Until 2076 to Release Data Supporting Its Licensing” was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Nov. 18, 2021.

“Matthew 24:42–51”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 20, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Wednesday-night Bible studies, I recently began a series covering Matthew 24. 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 24:42-51.

Monitoring behavior

In the first article of this series (titled “Matthew 24:1-5” on Oct. 9), I mentioned two ways to watch.

- Watching means noticing world events.
- Watching means focusing on our personal behavior.

Both approaches fall within the scope of the Greek word used in Matthew 24 to describe “watch.”

According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the Greek word (*gregoreo*) is a verb meaning “to keep watch” and “be on guard.”

Matthew 24:42-51 shows how watching applies to both approaches.

Watching for the thief

Matthew 24:42-44—“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Making right decisions

Matthew 24:45-47—“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”

Making wrong decisions

Matthew 24:48-49—“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delay-

ing his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards . . .”

Although a disciple should be mindful about all of the Father’s instructions, the Son of God mentioned two mistakes to avoid.

- Beating a fellow servant
- Eating and drinking with the drunkards

The Son of God mentioned in symbolic language that there would be consequences for not watching.

Matthew 24:50-51—“. . . The master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Paul talked about watching

Acts 20:31—“Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

1 Corinthians 16:13—“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6—“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”

John quoted Son of God

Revelation 3:2-3—“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”