

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 24, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:16

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m.

Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00

Ron Avey

(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader

Neil McIver

Pianist

Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading

Hebrews 9:1-28

Sermon

Ron Avey

Quick takes

1. Board meeting on Tuesday—The board has scheduled a meeting in the building on Tuesday at 4:30 pm. (It should be a short meeting to finalize the budget.) Everyone is welcome.

2. Wednesday-night Bible study—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is Dec. 28.

3. 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
- Donna Weese

4. Bad weather doesn't stop us—Since the beginning of this congregation, it has been our tradition to avoid canceling a church service due to weather. We expect each individual to use personal judgment and freedom for himself and his family. (Besides, you could join our Internet audience to watch our presentations online.)

5. Loss of electricity could slow us down—Although the circumstance would be rare, we would probably cancel a church service in the building due to a loss of electricity. (However, knowing our audience, anyone who showed up might enjoy a small Bible study—as long as we stayed warm enough.)

5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Hanukkah Made Western Civilization Possible" by Dennis Prager.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "The Eighth Commandment" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 38 pages. (This edition has 329 headlines.)

Prayer updates

In the Dec. 10 bulletin, we mentioned that **Bernice Burson** was dealing with a scorpion sting on her leg. She reported that her leg is improving.

New prayer requests

Donna Pfrimmer of Chariton, Iowa (92-year-old mother of **Joyce Coleman**), has a red spot on her throat that she wants to get checked.

Scott Baril of Oshkosh, Wis. (son of **Kate Vincent**), recently had back surgery. Since the rehab facility was full, he has been resting at home. The recovery time is scheduled to be three to six months. Please pray that his physical therapy goes well.

Trisha Svehla of Tennessee has been diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.

Earlier in the week, **Norman Sieman** of Zille Platte, La. (cousin of **Lisa Smith**), heard from a doctor that he might need to have a leg amputated. Some members in our congregation joined the family in prayer support. The family appreciates the prayers, because the doctor is now talking only about possibly removing some toes. And we can still keep praying.

Doris Cole of Happy Valley, Ore., is dealing with symptoms that are the result of her congestive heart failure.

Kelly Barfield of Big Sandy was hospitalized due to pneumonia and atrial fibrillation.

Nell Dyer of Knoxville, Tenn., has been dealing with the pain of a kidney stone.

Steven Swiger of Cleveland, Tenn., was hospitalized due to projectile vomiting. Doctors are seeking to find the cause.

Ken Swiger of Knoxville, Tenn., is dealing with cellulitis in his leg.

Although the following news is a year old, we just learned about it. **Brian Knowles** of Monrovia, Calif., died in December 2021 and his wife, **Lorraine**, died five days later. (We also learned that, when Mr. Knowles fell at that time, he landed on his wife and

injured her. That episode possibly caused her death shortly after his death.)

Charlene Smith of Creswell, Ore., died on Dec. 4. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

"Prioritizing wokeness over competence will inevitably lead to embarrassment and failure."—*Andrew Clyde*

Another thought for the week

"Hanukkah saved monotheism and thereby made the creation of the Western world possible."—*Dennis Prager*

Thought with a twist

What do most people do on a date? An 8-year-old girl answered:
"Dates are for having fun, and people use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough."



"The Eighth Commandment"

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 Dec. 24, 2022.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Eighth Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

Grace and expectations

Exodus 20:2—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:15—"You shall not steal."

Five concepts

In the Bible-study presentation, I organized my material into five concepts. In this article, I will refer to those five different concepts.

Stealing things, including money

- *Exodus 22:1*—What if a person stole an ox or sheep?
- *Exodus 22:2-3*—A difference if the thief was killed during a day burglary or a night burglary.
- *Exodus 22:4*—If a thief was caught with the animals alive, he paid the owner double.
- *Exodus 22:5*—If an animal grazed in another man's field, the owner made restitution from the best of his own field and best of his own vineyard.
- *Leviticus 19:11*—You shall not steal, nor deal falsely.
- *Leviticus 19:13*—You shall not cheat your neighbor, or rob him.
- *Isaiah 1:23-24*—God will take vengeance on a companion of thieves.
- *Jeremiah 7:9-16*—When a person committed sins (including stealing), he lost favor in the temple.
- *Hosea 4:1-3*—Sins in the land (including stealing) caused mourning in the land.
- *Zechariah 5:3*—In a vision, there was a flying scroll with a curse that was written: "Every thief shall be expelled."
- *Malachi 3:8-10*—Will a person rob God?
- *Luke 3:12-13*—The Son of God told the tax collectors: "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."
- *Luke 3:14*—The Son of God told the soldiers: "Be content with your wages."
- *John 18:40*—Barabbas was a robber.
- *Romans 13:7*—Pay what you owe.

- *1 Corinthians 5:11*—Disciples should avoid a brother who is an extortioner.
- *1 Corinthians 6:9-10*—Thieves shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Kidnapping is stealing people

- *Exodus 21:16*—A kidnapper shall surely be put to death.
- *Deuteronomy 24:7*—A kidnapper shall die.
- *1 Timothy 1:9-10*—The law was not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and sinner—one of the sins listed was kidnapping.

Stealing civil freedom

- *1 Samuel 8:1-22*—When Israel wanted a king, God warned the Israelites that the civil leaders would steal from them.
- *Matthew 20:25-28*—The Son of God warned about civil rulers wanting to lord it over people and to exercise authority over people.

Stealing religious freedom

- *2 Corinthians 11:20*—Some of the disciples were allowing religious leaders to do the following: place in bondage, devour, steal, exalt over and hit.
- *John 2:14-16*—The Son of God corrected people who were making the Father's house into a house of merchandise (using religion to take money from the people).
- *Matthew 21:12-13*—When the Son of God corrected the people who were making the Father's house into a place of business, He quoted Isaiah 56:7 (about a house of prayer for all people) and called them a "den of thieves."
- *Matthew 23:4-12*—The Son of God saw the religious leaders putting heavy burdens on the people and elevating their own importance.
- *Revelation 3:11*—The Son of God warned disciples to not allow anyone (including religious leaders) to take their crown.

Stealing truth—by stealing God's name and His credibility

- *Jeremiah 23:30-31*—The Lord is against the prophets who "steal My

words"—by falsely attributing those words to God.

- *John 10:1-8*—Some among the flock are thieves and robbers.
- *John 10:10*—The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy.
- *2 Peter 2:1-3*—False teachers steal truth, often because of covetousness—having a desire for power and money.