

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 13, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:34

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Jim Bald

Presentation study—2:00 Neil McIver
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Matthew 20:25–28

Sermon Morris Foster

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in the Houston area.
2. Welcome to traveling speaker—The congregation welcomes Morris Foster as our traveling speaker.
3. Upcoming traveling speakers—The congregation is pleased that many traveling speakers work it into their schedule to visit us. Here is the tentative schedule.

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| ■ Today | Morris Foster |
| ■ Jan. 20 | Don Smith |
| ■ Feb. 3 | Wynn Skelton |
| ■ Feb. 10 | Bill Crow |
| ■ Feb. 24 | Terry McAdams |
| ■ March 16 | Scott Hoefker |
| ■ May 4 | Ken Tate |

4. Wednesday-night Bible study—Jan. 17 at 7:00

5. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Annette Payne
■ Judy Biggs	■ Ruth Roe
■ Becky Bonilla	■ Ron Shirley
■ Angela Dunnam	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Mickey Voyce
■ Vi Lehman	■ Donna Weese
6. We don't generally cancel for bad weather—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.)
7. Loss of electricity would 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.)
8. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Point of No Return" by Thomas Sowell.
9. Among Friends—This week's article is "Positive Energy—Part 2" by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—264 headlines and three articles.

Thought for the week

"What's going to happen in this next election? I'm terrified about what could possibly happen, because our leaders matter. Who we select, who speaks for us, who holds that bully pulpit affects us in ways that sometimes I think people take for granted."—*Michelle Obama*

Prayer updates

In the Dec. 23 bulletin, we mentioned that **Shirley West** had a pacemaker inserted. Since then, it has taken her a while to get her energy back. On Thursday, she reported that she was feeling stronger. As she gets stronger, she is looking forward to getting back to church on Saturday and to playing dominoes on Sunday.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Benny West** (son of **Shirley West** and brother of **Stan**) was planning to have a hernia repaired before proceeding to have procedures to deal with kidney stones and a bladder blockage. Early in the week, there was talk about the possibility of the hernia surgery being scheduled for yesterday.

New prayer requests

You might remember that **Ramon Coleman** of Kansas City has been recovering remarkably well for years after health complications due to a stroke (including surgery involving his brain). Last Saturday, he called **Dave Havir** to ask for prayers—because he had trouble buttoning his clothes and went to an ER. The initial CT scan and MRI looked fine, but he spent the night. On Sunday, he was diagnosed with a TIA (ministroke) and was scheduled to go home. He sent an update on Tuesday telling Mr. Havir how the events unfolded: “I was all set to go home from the hospital Sunday and come back to do an echocardiogram within the next two weeks. In rare cases, the heart can affect TIAs. But the hospital called in an off-duty worker for some ICU patients, so she could also do my test then. Funny how God works. They found a problem in my heart—one large clot and a few smaller ones. They immediately started medicine to get rid of them. I got to go home on Monday night. Thanks for your prayers and please continue.” When Mr. Havir called Mr. Coleman on Thursday, Mr. Coleman mentioned that he was still feeling well.

Cheri Blue of Winnsboro has been moved to a hospice facility in Tyler.

Scripture to consider

Revelation 2:2—“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars.”

“Positive Energy—Part 2”

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 Jan. 13, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a short series about positive energy. In last week’s study, I quickly mentioned five basic premises—without taking the time to turn to any scriptures. I decided to spend a little time with those concepts.

Born with positive energy

The first premise is that we are born with positive energy.

■ 1 Corinthians 2:11—The “spirit of a man” is mentioned as different from the Spirit of God—indicating the people have an energy

that is wonderful.

■ Genesis 1:31—When God saw everything that He made, He acknowledged that it was very good (including the spirit of a man).

Receptive to negative energy

The second premise is that we are immediately receptive to negative energy.

■ Genesis 3:1-6—Adam and Eve were receptive to the negative energy projected by the serpent.

■ Genesis 6:5—The Lord saw that the wickedness of man and the thoughts of his heart were continually evil.

■ Genesis 8:21—The Lord saw that the

imaginings of man's heart were evil from his youth.

Factors of energy level

The third premise is that there are factors that cause our energy level to be positive or negative.

In the study I listed five factors that cause our energy level to be positive or negative.

Heredity

The first factor of the overall third premise is heredity. Our foundational approach to energy is related to our parents.

■ John 1:14—The Son of God had the glory of His Father.

Environment

The second factor of the overall third premise is environment. Our environment strongly affects the beginning of our approach to energy and to our ongoing approach to energy.

■ Exodus 20:4-5—It is my perspective that generational consequences of family sin are strongly related to the environmental lifestyle passed along in families—that must be overcome with a new relationship with the Father.

■ 1 Kings 15:3—King Abijam of Judah is one example in the Bible of a person who walked in the sins of his father.

■ John 5:30—It was important for the Son of God to seek the will of His Father.

■ John 6:38—The Son of God came from heaven to do the will of His Father.

Reasoning skills

The third factor of the overall third premise is reasoning skills. Our learned reasoning skills and our developing reasoning skills are extremely important to the processing of positive and negative energy.

I am aware of the approach of many religions that discourage human reasoning—some even going so far as describing “human reasoning” as a sin.

Some of those individuals are sincere in their narrow view. Others are individuals who use their approach to attempt to control people.

Human reasoning (like most factors of life) can certainly be sin.

But the ability to reason and think is a gift from God—and an important doorway

to processing positive and negative energy.

■ Isaiah 1:18—The Lord invited Isaiah to reason with Him.

■ Acts 24:25—Paul reasoned about righteousness, self-control and the judgment.

Conscience

The fourth factor of the overall third premise is conscience. Our conscience is extremely important to the processing of positive and negative energy.

■ John 8:9—When the Son of God exposed some sins of the scribes and Pharisees, they were convicted by their conscience and left His presence.

■ Romans 2:15—Paul mentioned the connection between the work of the law being written in their hearts, and their conscience bearing witness.

■ 1 Timothy 1:5—Paul mentioned a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith.

■ 1 Timothy 4:2—Paul mentioned people speaking lies in hypocrisy—having their conscience seared with a hot iron.

■ Titus 1:15—Paul mentioned people having their mind and conscience defiled.

■ 1 Peter 2:19—Peter mentioned that disciples endure grief because of conscience.

Our experiences

The fifth factor of the overall third premise is our experiences. Our experiences are extremely important to the processing of positive and negative energy.

■ Ezekiel 18:4-20—The Lord explained that individuals receive consequences from their behavior (experiences).

■ Matthew 4:1-11—The devil sought to cause the Son of God to stumble, but He fasted in preparation and was totally successful.

■ 1 Peter 4:12-16—We learn from our experiences—both from our mistakes and from suffering as a Christian.

The other two

Although I didn't cover the other two overall premises in the study, I want to remind you about them here.

■ It is important to recognize how dangerous negative energy is to a person.

■ It is important to understand how to grow and to maintain positive energy.