

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

March 2, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:17

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading 2 Corinthians 4:7–9

Sermon Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Thank you—The Big Sandy Chamber of Commerce thanks the congregation for making our building available for its annual dinner last Thursday night.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—March 6 at 7:00.
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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| ■ March 16 | Scott Hoefker |
| ■ March 23 | Wynn Skelton |
| ■ April 6 | Morris Foster |
| ■ April 13 | Wynn Skelton |
| ■ May 4 | Ken Tate |
4. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Here’s What 9/11 First Responders Taught Me About Resilience” by Dr. Sue Varma.

5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Philippians 4:13—Part 4" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—Due to a hectic schedule, Eye on the World was not completed at the printing deadline of this bulletin. (It was to be posted on the website later in the evening.)
7. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

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| ■ Mickey Ashcraft | ■ Ruth Roe |
| ■ Judy Biggs | ■ Ronnie Shirley |
| ■ Becky Bonilla | ■ Elaine Townsend |
| ■ Angela Dunnam | ■ Mickey Voyce |
| ■ Timberly Dunnum | ■ Donna Weese |
| ■ Annette Payne | |

Prayer updates

On Friday, **Lisa Smith** traveled to Metairie, La., to bring **Gary Wilson** back to East Texas. (They are traveling today).

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Wanda Klepfer** (87-year-old mother of **Brenda Kennebeck**) was anticipating double-bypass surgery this week. She had the surgery on Monday. Her recovery has been slow (as anticipated because of her age). On Thursday, she was moved from critical ICU to regular ICU. The family appreciates your prayers.

Lois Hirschler of Missouri reports that the X-rays of her neck and head show some degeneration.

New prayer requests

Ronnie Pilcher of Tyler was involved in a serious car accident and has been in intensive care with multiple broken bones.

Mike McNiel of Big Sandy is recovering from triple-hernia repair.

Strategies for dealing with adversity

Dr. Sue Varma recommends the following five strategies for dealing with adversity.

1. Find a bright side (even if it's really hard).
2. Help others—and share your pain.
3. Keep nothing bottled up.
4. Volunteer for a sense of purpose.
5. Never suffer in silence.

Scriptures to consider

Proverbs 14:15—“The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.”

2 Timothy 2:3-4—“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:5—“And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”

2 Timothy 2:6—“The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops.”

“Philippians 4:13—Part 4”

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 2, 2024.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible-study on Wednesday night, I concluded a series about Philippians 4:13. This was part 4.

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Reasons for choosing

Why would a pastor give a Bible study series about the words found in Philippians 4:13?

Here are four of my thoughts.

- I believe that a merciful Heavenly Father readily answers prayers.

- But I do not believe in the “name it, claim it” approach—where people can push God to do what they want Him to do and cause Him to submit to them.

- Our loving Father gives us so much—every need and many of our wants.

- One of the greatest gifts a dad gives to his children is a can-do, positive attitude, and the perfect Heavenly Father does the same—He helps us to succeed in times of adversity.

God answers prayers

In two recent studies, I discussed three concepts about how God answers prayers.

1. I believe that God (as a perfect Father)

will supply our personal needs—because He is trustworthy and because He loves us.

2. I believe that God will often give us the desires of our heart—because He loves us.

3. I believe that God sometimes says “no” to our requests (often the desires of our heart)—because He loves us.

Enduring and succeeding

At the end of the previous Bible study, I concluded with the following comments.

We can learn a few lessons when a loving Heavenly Father says “no.”

- He wants us to grow and to learn.

- He will teach us how to endure.

- He will teach us how to succeed.

Trials for children of God

It is important in life to realize that children of God will have trials.

- Genesis 50:20—When Joseph’s brothers meant to do evil against him, God meant the situation for good.

- 1 Samuel 26:21-24—When Saul apologized to David, David advised Saul to send a servant to come over to retrieve the king’s spear.

- Hebrews 5:8—The Son of God “learned” through His experiences.

- Acts 14:22—Paul strengthened the disciples with exhortation: “We must through many

tribulations enter the kingdom of heaven.”

■ 2 Timothy 3:12—Paul mentioned that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus “will suffer persecution.”

■ James 1:2-3—James wrote that disciples should count it all joy when they had various trials.

■ 1 Peter 1:6-7—Peter reminded the disciples that trials were more precious than gold.

■ 1 Peter 4:12-16—Peter reminded the disciples about the difference between trials from sin and trials from being a partaker of Christ’s sufferings.

Two powerful sources

■ 1 Corinthians 2:11—Paul reminded the disciples in Corinth about two sources of power.

Spirit of the man

■ Proverbs 14:15—An unwise person believes every narrative, while a prudent person wisely sizes up every situation.

■ 2 Timothy 2:3-4—Learn lessons from soldiers.

■ 2 Timothy 2:5—Learn lessons from athletes.

■ 2 Timothy 2:6—Learn lessons from farmers.

There is much excellent advice from people who talk about dealing with adversity. In January 2022, Elizabeth Perry wrote an article titled “Adversity: What Is It and How to Overcome It.” Following is a list of her 10 points.

1. Stop making excuses.
2. Write.
3. Change your state of mind.
4. Stay disciplined.
5. Use your sense of humor.
6. Have faith.
7. Let each success energize you.

8. Don’t take “no” for an answer.

9. Surround yourself with people who have a positive mind-set.

10. Spend time in nature.

Spirit of God

■ 2 Corinthians 12:9—The Lord told Paul: “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

■ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4—The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ comforts us in all our tribulation.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:8-9—When Paul was burdened above strength, he learned to trust in God.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:10—God has delivered us, does deliver us and will deliver us.

■ 2 Corinthians 4:7—God has given us a treasure, that the excellence of the power may be of God (and not of us).

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

■ We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed.

■ We are perplexed, but not in despair.

■ We are persecuted, but not forsaken.

■ We are struck down, but not destroyed.

Philippians 4:10-13

■ Philippians 4:10—Paul rejoiced mightily in the Lord, because the people cared for him.

■ Philippians 4:11—Paul did not focus on his wants, because he learned to be content in his life.

■ Philippians 4:12—Paul learned how to be abased and how to abound (to be full and to be hungry)—both to abound and to suffer need.

■ Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Thoughts for the week

“Your calm mind is the ultimate weapon against your challenges.”

“Always believe that something wonderful is about to happen.”

“Remember that the airplane takes off against the wind.”

“Attitude is the little thing that makes a big difference.”

“I have learned not to allow rejection to defeat me.”