

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 7, 2018 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:43

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Ramon Coleman
Teen class Martha Mclver

Order of service

Song leader Ron Avey
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Gal. 5:16-26 by Neil Mclver
Sermon Ramon Coleman

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Ramon Coleman from the Kansas City area. (For a number of years, Mr. Coleman has been a speaker at our Feast of Tabernacles site in Destin.) Mr. Coleman is scheduled to give two presentations today—the Bible study at 2:00 and the sermon in the church service at 3:00.
2. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "The Pervasiveness of Bribery" by Dennis Prager.
3. Among Friends—This week's article is "Comments About Romans 13" by Dave Havir.
4. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 20 pages.

Prayer updates

Lisa Smith continues to have days of dealing with headaches and neck aches. She is waiting to hear a recommendation of how to proceed.

Months ago, we mentioned that **Bea Gusner** was scheduled to return to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., for a possible surgery to replace two heart valves. Recently, she was informed of the schedule. She will have tests there on May 7 to determine if her condition has improved. If the tests reveal a need for surgery, she will have the surgery on May 8.

Marilyn Boston reports that she is making progress during her rehabilitation at Claremont rehab facility. She told **Dave Havir** that she has been there for 54 days and is scheduled to attend a meeting on Thursday to discuss her future.

Elaine Holloway reports that she had a profitable week during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Sonny Rosenberger has been dealing with breathing challenges and a lack on energy.

In the March 24 bulletin, we mentioned that **Vonda Ouellette** had dealt with an episode of excessive bleeding from her nose. On Wednesday, she had another bleeding episode.

This coming Wednesday, **Boyd Payne** is scheduled for a procedure to remove the roots where the doctor had recently removed a wart on the nose that was diagnosed as skin cancer.

New prayer requests

Late on Tuesday evening, **Ron Feaker** fell in his home and busted his lip open. Medical personnel went to his home, but Mr. Feaker did not need to go to the hospital.

Donna Pfrimmer of Chariton, Iowa (mother of **Joyce Coleman**), recently dealt with a health situation and is presently dealing with another. The recent event was that she had an allergic reaction (causing her throat to be paralyzed) while at the dentist. Her current event is that one ear is plugged with excessive wax.

Michele James of Jarrell (a member of the Waco congregation) died on March 27. Please remember her husband, **Adam**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Janie Swanner of the local community died on March 31. Please remember her husband, **Maxey**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Galatians 5:19-21—“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:22-23— “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

“Comments about Romans 12”

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 31, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 12.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Christian-living principles

Many Bible students note that the first 11 chapters in the book of Romans deal more with spiritual concepts of God’s righteousness, and that chapter 12 begins a section of Christian-living principles.

- Present your bodies a living sacrifice (verse 1).

- Don’t be conformed to this world, but rather be transformed by the renewing of your mind—to prove what is good, acceptable and the perfect will of God (verse 2).

- Don’t think more highly of yourself than you ought to think (verse 3).

- There is one body with many members (verses 4-5).

Seven gifts

The apostle Paul proceeded to list seven practical gifts among the Body of Christ (verses 6-8). Those gifts are listed next.

- Prophecy
- Ministry (serving)
- Teaching
- Exhorting
- Giving
- Leading (mentioned as ruling in the King James)
- Showing mercy

The following statement may seem odd to you—but these seven gifts are not ranks of authority. Why do I say that?

Many religious organizations like to view No. 1 (prophecy), No. 2 (ministry) and No. 6 (ruling in the King James Version) as ranks of authority. I would ask people who believe such ideas the following questions.

- Who has the highest rank of exhorting?
- Who has the highest rank of giving?
- Who has the highest rank of showing mercy?

Beware of people who seek to define gifts from God as some type of system that acts as a control mechanism.

Matthew 20:25-28—“But Jesus called them to Himself and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.’ ”

Great advice

The rest of the chapter has much great advice.

- Verses 9-13 discussed several aspects of love and service.

- Bless those who persecute you (verse 14).
- Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (verse 15).

- Associate with humble people (verse 16).
- Do not repay evil for evil (verse 17).

- If it is possible, live peaceably with all people (verse 18).

Romans 12:18—“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

- Paul paraphrased Deuteronomy 32:35 (verse 19) and Proverbs 25:21-22 (verse 20).

Romans 12:19-20—“Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ ”

- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (verse 21).

“Comments about Romans 13”

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 April 7, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 13.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Submitting to government

Many Bible students note that the first 11 chapters in the book of Romans deal more with spiritual concepts of God’s righteousness and that chapter 12 begins a section of Christian-living principles.

The Christian-living principle at the beginning of chapter 13 deals with a disciple’s relationship with government (both civil and religious).

Romans 13:1-4 contains important words to a disciple. But those words have often been used by authority figures (civil and religious leaders) in an effort to control disciples.

- Do these verses instruct disciples to place leaders in a hierarchy between them and Christ? Certainly not.

- Do these verses instruct disciples to follow directives of leaders no matter what they say? Certainly not.

Dealing with evil

In Romans 13, the apostle Paul mentioned that the purpose of leaders is to protect people from evil (verses 1-4).

Question: What is a disciple to do when the leaders are the people initiating and spreading evil?

Consider what Peter and the other apostles said to the council in the book of Acts.

Acts 4:19—“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.’”

Acts 5:29—“But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: ‘We ought to obey God rather than men.’”

Examples of following God

Notice two famous examples in the Old Testament where people did not follow the edicts of the leaders.

- Exodus 1:22—Moses’ mother put her son in the river (Exodus 2:3), but she was obviously not fulfilling the edict of Pharaoh.

- Joshua 2:1-7—Rahab heard the edict from the king of Jericho (verse 3), but she told the lie to save lives.

Notice how she told the same lie in four different ways (Joshua 2:4-5).

- The men came, but I didn’t know from where.

- When it was time to close the gate at dark, the men left.

- I don’t know where the men were going.

- Pursue after them quickly; you can catch them.

Appreciate good leaders

Back to chapter 13.

- Leaders should be in a position to protect people from evil (verses 1-4).

- Following leaders should be based upon conscience and not fear (verse 5).

- Paul instructed disciples to pay taxes to government (verses 6-7).

Reminder about love

Paul proceeded to move from discussing the specific discussion about paying taxes to the general principle about showing love (verses 8-10).

- Paul mentioned the last five of the Ten Commandments and described them with the phrase “you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (verse 10).

Put on Christ

- It is time to put on Christ (verse 11).

- Cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light (verse 12).

- Avoid the sins of the flesh and put on the Lord Jesus Christ (verses 13-14).