

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 9, 2019 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:23

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	Jon Coffee
Bible study (2:00)	Jon Coffee
Teen class	Martha Mclver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader	Neil Mclver
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Hebrews 10:26–39
Sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Upcoming guest speakers—The congregation is pleased to announce that several guest speakers are scheduled to visit our congregation soon.

- Dec. 7 Jim Johns
- Dec. 21 George Crow

2. Community Thanksgiving church service on Nov. 24—Citizens of Big Sandy and surrounding areas are invited to the annual Big Sandy community Thanksgiving church service on Sunday, Nov. 24.

- Date:** Sunday, Nov. 24
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Where: In our church building
Program: Individuals from various congregations express appreciation through words and music
Our history: Two years ago, Dave Havir said a few words and presented a YouTube music video (Celine Tam and Jeffrey Li singing “You Raise Me Up.”) Last year, Shirley West talked about how her mother rejected the recommendation to abort her.
Afterwards: Finger foods

3. Interactive this week—The interactive Bible study today is scheduled to be “Who Was Melchizedek?” moderated by Jon Coffee.
4. Interactive next week—The interactive Bible study next week is scheduled to be “The Ninth Commandment.”
5. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “The Battle Is Not Right vs. Left; It’s Statism vs. Individualism” by Daniel J. Mitchell.
6. Among Friends—This week’s article is “The Third Commandment” by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 18 pages.

Prayer updates

With the recent drop in temperature, **Sonny Rosenberger** continues to have a difficult time staying warm in his house.

On Wednesday night, **Laura Moran** participated in a sleep study. Concerning a different matter, a doctor contacted her this week to go to an emergency room to receive antibiotics because she was diagnosed with a colon infection. She is scheduled to see a different doctor for a second opinion on Nov. 20.

David Bonilla was able to go home on Sunday.

Brandi West of Lindale (daughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) was able to go home on Sunday.

New prayer requests

Emma Lou Bacher has been diagnosed with secondary lymphedema. Following are excerpts from a report by her daughter: “Secondary lymphedema means that she’ll get a pump compression system that will help with her leg swelling and hopefully make it easier for her to walk.”

Tim Roe of Ore City (son of **Ruth Roe**) is dealing with severe pain in his back, shoulders and knees.

Terry Weese of Longview (son of **Donna Weese**) is dealing with a variety of health problems.

Sarah Trowbridge of Chicago, Ill. (a friend, in her early 30s, of **Jessica Killingley**), has been diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. She has decided to seek palliative care because her cancer is not responding to treatment.

Michelle Moore of Bend, Ore., went to an urgent-care facility due to a rapid and erratic heart rate and high blood pressure.

Ellen Edelbach of Longview (mother of **Neil McIver**) died on Nov. 5. (There will be a memorial service on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10:00 at the Grace Communion International church in Big Sandy. A meal will follow.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

Genesis 14:18-24—“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all. Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.’ But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, “I have made Abram rich”—except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.’ ”

Psalms 110:4—“The LORD has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’ ”

Hebrews 5:1-6—“For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’ As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’ ”

Hebrews 6:19-20—“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 7:1-4—“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, meaning ‘king of peace,’ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.”

Hebrews 7:9-11—“Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?”

Hebrews 7:15-17—“And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’ ”

“The Third Commandment”

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 Nov. 9, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—We as believers are thankful that we are saved by grace. In fact, we should reflect our appreciation by giving much thought and attention into recognizing God’s expectations for us.

We can reflect back to the time in the Old Testament when the children of Israel were brought out of the land of Egypt—the house of bondage (Exodus 20:1-2)—and remember that God gave them instructions about how to live (verses 3-17).

Let’s spend some time considering the third commandment.

Exodus 20:7—“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

Violating by words

God places great value in His name. And He places great value in how people use His name.

In the book of Leviticus, God gave some instructions to Moses about His name.

He said that people should not misuse His name by making promises they do not intend to keep (Leviticus 19:12).

In the book of Deuteronomy, God mentioned the importance of vows.

He said that people should accomplish the words that they promise with their mouths (Deuteronomy 23:21-23).

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:33), Jesus referred to both those sections of Old Testament scripture. Then He magnified the lesson.

He instructed members of His audience to avoid swearing. Then He elaborated to them that they should avoid swearing by heaven (verse 34), by the earth (verse 35), by Jerusalem (also verse 35) and by one’s head (verse 36).

The same message was repeated by the apostle James in James 5:12.

God expects believers to avoid using His name lightly. Yet I believe that there is a greater violation of the Third Commandment than merely using wrong words.

Violating by actions

Consider this. How does God feel about people who claim His name but misrepresent Him by their actions?

Titus 1:16—“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

1 John 2:4—“He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

God has consistently revealed that He loves people. Yet God has also consistently maintained that He will honor His name—even when His people do not.

Ezekiel 36:21-23—“But I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went. Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the LORD GOD: “I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for My holy name’s sake, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went. And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the LORD,” says the LORD GOD, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes.” ’”

Worshipping in vain

Some people think that it is impossible to worship God in vain. They pontificate that God accepts any effort and form of worship.

While it is true that our Heavenly Father is extremely merciful, He has the authority to set the standards. He has the prerogative to accept acts of worship and to identify acts of worship as vain.

Notice when Christ quoted Isaiah 29:13 to the scribes and Pharisees. Notice why He considered them to be worshipping Him in vain.

Matthew 15:7-9—“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”