

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 7, 2019 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	.....	Daniel Botha
Bible study (2:00)	.....	Daniel Botha
Teen class	.....	Carol Bald

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader	.....	Daniel Botha
Pianist	.....	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	.....	Hebrews 11:23–29
Sermon	.....	Jim Johns

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Jim and Sue Johns from Pennsylvania. Mr. Johns is scheduled to give the sermon today.
2. Upcoming guest speakers—The congregation is pleased to announce that several guest speakers are scheduled to visit our congregation in the near future.
 - Today Jim Johns
 - Dec. 21 George Crow
3. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havir is giving a Bible study and a sermon in Oklahoma City.
4. Interactive this week—The interactive Bible study today is scheduled to be “Seven Times” moderated by Daniel Botha.
5. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Let’s Give Red Flag Laws a Try—With Abortion” by Paul Curry.
6. Among Friends—This week’s article is “The Seventh Commandment” by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 28 pages. (Dave Havir notes that the last nine pages of the publication describe the wealthiest people in each of the 50 states.)

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Vi Lehman, Sonny Rosenberger** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Laura Moran reports that her doctor appointment that was scheduled for this past Thursday was postponed due to digestive challenges.

Elaine Holloway continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. She is in Room 109.

Ron Feaker continues to rehab at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater. He is in Room 412.

In last week's bulletin, **Bea Gusner** reported that her husband, **Willie**, had low hemoglobin and needed a blood transfusion. On Sunday, the doctors found an actively bleeding artery and corrected it. On Thursday, she gave a report. On Wednesday, the ventilator was removed but he continued to use an oxygen mask. A feeding tube remained through the week. The plan was to check his ability for swallowing before deciding when it could be removed. His hemoglobin was up. They are watching his kidney function. They are monitoring him to see that he is not dealing with any infection. He has responded to "small commands." She was hoping that her husband could come out of ICU on Friday.

Please remember that **Tom Mitchell** has been diagnosed with cancer in his esophagus and other areas of the body.

John Worden is scheduled for cataract surgery on Dec. 11.

New prayer requests

On Thursday, **Mickey Voyce** went into a hospital to have "a small cyst removed." Early in the week, she requested for **Dave Havir** to send out a prayer request on his text prayer list (which he did) and in this week's bulletin. Mrs. Voyce went home on Thursday. She and her mother (**Laura Moran**) appreciate your prayers.

Although this obituary was mentioned orally several weeks ago, we wanted it to appear as a historical record in our bulletin. **Gene Zhorne** of Longview died on Oct. 5. Please remember his wife, **Connie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Pat Dixon of Perth, Australia, died on Nov. 15. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Lois Staples of Altadena, Calif., died on Nov. 30. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

"So Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed?
But where are the nine?' "—*Luke*

Children of the Greatest Generation

The following is quite a litany of former times. See how much of the following rings a familiar bell with you.

- If you were born in the 1930s through the 1940s, you exist as a very special age-group.
- You can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world war, which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years.
- You are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves.
- You saved tinfoil and poured fat into tin cans.
- You saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available.
- You can remember milk being delivered to our houses early in the morning and placed in the "milk box" on the porch.
- You were the last to see the gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors whose sons died in the war.
- You saw the "boys" home from the war build their little houses.
- You are the last generation that spent childhood without television—instead, you used your imagination from words you heard on the radio.
- With no television, you spent your childhood "playing outside."
- There was no little league.
- There was no city playground for kids.
- Soccer was unheard of.
- With no television, you had reduced understanding of what the world was like.
- On Saturday afternoons, the movies had newsreels (that were at least a week old) sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons.
- Telephones were one to a house—often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall in the kitchen.
- Computers were called calculators.
- Typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage and changing the ribbon.
- Internet and Google were words that did not exist.
- Newspapers and magazines were written by adults and the news was broadcast on our radio in the evening by Paul Harvey.
- Your generation can remember both a time of great war and a time when your world was secure (full of plenty and of bright promise)—you lived through both.
- Many people say that you grew up at the best possible time—a time when the world was getting better and not worse.

“The Seventh 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. 7, 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 Seventh Commandment.

Exodus 20:14—“You shall not commit adultery.”

Old Testament anomalies

We are all familiar with the Old Covenant penalty for adultery—the death penalty for both sinners (Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22).

Yet the Old Testament allowed for polygamy, as men were known to have multiple wives and concubines. The famous examples included Jacob (Genesis 29:16-30), Gideon (Judges 8:30-31), David (1 Samuel 27:3; 2 Samuel 5:13 and 20:3) and Solomon (1 Kings 11:3).

Greater consequences

As we consider the Seventh Commandment, we have the opportunity to ask the following two questions. Must all sins be viewed the same? Or do some sins create a greater revulsion than other sins?

According to the book of Proverbs, the answer may surprise you.

Proverbs 6:30-32—“People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; he may have to give up all the substance of his house. Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; he who does so destroys his own soul.”

Is the Bible condoning stealing? No.

Is the Bible encouraging stealing? Of course not.

But these few verses in Proverbs reveal that some sins have greater consequences than other sins.

And the specific sin used to make this point was the sin of adultery. Adultery creates much chaos and pain.

Comments about divorce

What does the Bible say about divorce?

■ Moses wrote about a bill of divorce (Deuteronomy 24:1-4).

■ God granted Israel a bill of divorce (Jeremiah 3:8).

■ Jesus mentioned the bill of divorce (Matthew 5:31) and then discussed a limited exception clause to have a divorce (verse 32).

■ When the Pharisees later asked Jesus if a man could put away a wife for “every cause” (Matthew 19:3), He mentioned Genesis 2:24 (verses 4-5), the bill of divorce (verses 7-8) and reiterated the limited exception clause to have a divorce (verse 9).

■ After the apostle Paul quoted a strong command from the Lord about married people staying together (1 Corinthians 7:10-11), he gave his opinion to believers about general guidelines where a believer was not bound to stay with a mate (verses 12-16). Paul’s opinions in this letter ended up in the Bible.

Higher expectations

Along with the greater mercy of the New Covenant came some higher expectations of believers. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explained a tougher standard for disciples to follow concerning the Seventh Commandment.

Matthew 5:27-28—“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”