

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 14, 2019 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:13

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00)	Jon Coffee
Bible study (2:00)	Jon Coffee
Teen class	Carol Bald

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader	Reg Killingley
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading	Hebrews 11:30–40
Sermon	Dave Havir

Quick takes

1. Upcoming guest speaker—The congregation is pleased to announce that a guest speaker is scheduled to visit our congregation in the near future.
■ Dec. 21 George Crow
2. Interactive this week—The interactive Bible study today is scheduled to be “When Was Jesus Born?” moderated by Jon Coffee.
3. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Fight for the Freedom to Question Vaccines” by Michelle Malkin.
4. Among Friends—This week’s article is “The Eighth Commandment” by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 20 pages.

Prayer update

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**.

On Thursday, **Laura Moran** went for her scheduled visit to her cardiologist.

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 the Nov. 2 bulletin, we mentioned that **Dixon Cartwright** was hospitalized and diagnosed with possible diverticulitis. After he received a blood transfusion, he was released and was advised to have a colonoscopy. The procedure was done this past Thursday. The diagnosis was changed to diverticulosis.

In last week's bulletin (which was prepared on Thursday, Dec. 5), **Bea Gusner** reported that her husband, **Willie**, was improving, but he still had some challenges. (Doctors were watching his kidney function.) As it turned out, Friday (Dec. 6) was a bad day—with him going back on the ventilator and with his kidneys not improving. Here is what Mrs. Gusner reported on Wednesday. The good news was that his hemoglobin was up and his white-blood count was down. But the bad news was with the kidneys. The doctors said that "his kidneys were in shock after all the bleeding." On Monday night, the doctors administered dialysis—with more dialysis on Tuesday and Wednesday. He was moved to a rehab section within the hospital (described as acute care). The family is hoping that the ventilator can be removed and that his kidneys respond properly. The doctors expressed some optimism about the kidneys, but admitted that it might take four to six weeks. The family appreciates your prayers.

New prayer requests

Julian Cruz of San Antonio suffered a massive stroke on Tuesday evening.

Fred Gill of Tulsa, Okla., was hospitalized this week with pneumonia.

Jan Weiner of Sparta, Ill., died on Dec. 7. Please remember her husband, **Scott**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Patti Bratt of Portsmouth, Ohio, died on Dec. 12. Please remember her husband, **Bill**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Suffering of the Son

Luke 11:53-54—And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things, lying in wait for Him, and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.

Luke 20:20—So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, that they might seize on His words, in order to deliver Him to the power and the authority of the governor.

Luke 22:44—And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:48—But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Luke 22:61—And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

Hebrews 4:14-15—Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 5:7-8—Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Death of the Son

Romans 5:6-8—For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Hebrews 2:14-15—Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 9:7—But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:11-14—But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 9:24-28—For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

“The Eighth 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. 14, 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 Eighth Commandment.

Exodus 20:15—“You shall not steal.”

Ancient guidelines

Some readers of the Bible might be initially surprised about some of the detail devoted to the subject of stealing in the book of Exodus—especially in the first 13 verses in chapter 22. Let’s notice only a few of the items.

- If a person stole an ox (that was killed or sold), he replaced it with five oxen (verse 1). If a person stole a sheep (that was killed or sold), he replaced it with four sheep (also verse 1).

- If a person killed a thief who was burglarizing during the night, the killer was not guilty (verse 2). If a person killed a thief who was burglarizing during the day, the killer was guilty (verse 3).

- If a person could not make full restitution, he became a slave to the owner (also verse 3).

- If a thief was caught with the animals alive, he paid the owner double (verse 4).

Consequences for kidnapping

You might also find it interesting to notice a few instructions about the consequences of kidnapping in the Old Testament.

- If a person kidnapped a person, he was

sentenced to death (Exodus 21:16).

- If a person kidnapped a person and made him a slave, he was put to death (Deuteronomy 24:7).

Specific lessons

There were also some lessons recorded in the New Testament.

When John the Baptist was teaching the people to bring forth “fruits worthy of repentance” (Luke 3:7-8), some asked him for specific examples.

- When the tax collectors asked John for specific instructions, he told them: “Don’t make people pay more than they owe” (verses 12-13).

- When the soldiers asked John for specific instructions, he told them: “Don’t force people to pay money to make you leave them alone. Be satisfied with your pay” (verse 14).

Theft in the name of religion

Theft in society does not occur only in civil areas. Unfortunately, theft in society also occurs in religious systems.

Here are some scriptures that warn believers to be careful of religious systems that fleece the flock: John 10:1-10; Ezekiel 34:1-6; John 2:14-16; Matthew 21:12-13; and 2 Peter 2:1-3.

Final thoughts before death

The writer of Proverbs 30:7-9 uttered some interesting words before his death. He had two requests before he died (verse 7).

- The first was a request for God to help him to be honest (verse 8).

- The second was a request for God to avoid giving him poverty or riches (also verse 8).

He explained the second request this way: “If I have too much to eat, I might forget about You. If I don’t have enough, I might steal and disgrace Your name” (verse 9).