

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Jan. 11, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:32

Bible studies and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Dave Havir
Bible study (2:00) Wynn Skelton
Teen class Martha Mclver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil Mclver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Hebrews 12:25–29
Sermon Wynn Skelton

Quick takes

1. Welcome to our guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Wynn Skelton for joining us today—and giving a Bible study and a sermon.
2. Budget Committee meeting tonight—Treasurer Neil Mclver invites members of the congregation to participate on the Budget Committee.
3. Board meeting on Jan. 18—The next board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 18.
4. Chamber of Commerce dinner in our building—The annual Chamber of Commerce dinner in our building is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 16.
5. Interactive this week—The interactive Bible study today is scheduled to be “Proverbs 6:16-19—Part 1” moderated by Dave Havir.
6. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Why Are Millennials Leaving Religion?” by Joy Pullmann.
7. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Teachings of the Son” by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 24 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Sonny Rosenberger, Laura Moran, Boyd Payne, Annette Payne** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

As you may have noticed, **Eli Benedict** has missed three consecutive weeks of church. (**Jean** was able to attend last week without him.) He has had a variety of challenges. Most recently, he is dealing with a rash on his chest. While the itching is a nuisance, the larger problem is how the rash has interfered with his sleeping. The Benedicts appreciate our prayers.

Please remember **David Bonilla**, who is dealing with his heart operating at about 20 percent and with weak kidneys.

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.

Fred Gill of Tulsa, Okla., died on Jan. 7. Please remember his family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Rue Bell of Estero, Fla. (sister of **Laura Moran**), has been diagnosed with muscular skeletal problems. The doctor is hoping that “cold-laser treatments” will help her.

“A Meaningful Life”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of May 9, 2015.

By **John Havir**

HUNTINGTON, W.Va.—Recently, my father, Gerald Gill, passed away. He was 85. His passing sparked a mix of emotions. Remembering the fun times instigated emotions of joy, which triggered hearty laughter. But funerals prompt sentiments of sadness and tend to produce an atmosphere of seriousness as well.

After recalling the many good times with my father, my thoughts settled down and a question arose in my mind: What makes a life successful? I knew my father’s life was significant, but, specifically, what makes a life have meaning?

Cause greater than oneself

In his renowned book, *Man’s Search for Meaning*, Victor Frankl expressed the following: “Don’t aim at success—the more you aim at it and make it your target, the

more you are going to miss it. For success, like happiness, cannot be pursued; it must ensue, and it only does so as the unintended side-effect of one’s dedication to a cause greater than oneself or as the surrender to a person other than oneself.”

In my opinion, the first element of a successful life is living for a cause greater than oneself. My father was an exemplary example of this first principle.

As a member of the Army stationed in Europe during the Cold War, he served his country. Eventually, he married my mother, who, by the way, was a widow with four children.

My father believed in God and found a church home where he could worship. But he did more than just warm a pew and drop an offering. Many of the 50-year-old adults who attended his funeral were once teenagers in the youth group he oversaw.

He also dedicated many hours as a trail coordinator and assisted an environmental-education specialist at a local state park. One year my dad received a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation Volunteer award.

As Jesus walked this earth, He lived His life with a greater purpose in mind. It was in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus' expressions of agony reveal His emotions before the crucifixion.

But Jesus recalled the greater purpose for which He entered this world—to do the Father's will (Luke 22:39-46).

If our lives are to be successful, we must live for a cause greater than ourselves.

God's grace is always sufficient

One would think a successful life is one without hardship, but that is not true. In a sense, life is like the stem of a rose. On one end is a beautiful fragrant flower. But that flower is supported by a stem that has thorns.

During the good times, it is easy to praise God and accept His grace. These are the times when our prayers are answered the way we want, the bank account is full and we are experiencing total satisfaction.

But how do we accept God's grace when it comes to us as a thorn? God gave the apostle Paul a thorn in the flesh to keep him from exalting himself. Jesus spoke directly to Paul and stated, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Jesus specifically said the thorn was God's grace!

My father accepted the flowers and thorns of God's grace. Around the age of 10, he and his brother were placed into foster care. This occurred because of a divorce and remarriage. During his formative years, my dad never saw his mother again, and he was visited by his father only once a month.

But, what is most remarkable, no one ever heard my father express a word of bitterness or resentment toward his father or stepmother. It is thorns like this that cause us to be perfected in Christ.

Many biblical characters received God's grace as a thorn. Noah, who found favor in God's eyes, was instructed to build an ark in the middle of a desert.

Abraham was told by God He would use Abraham to build a large nation. Yet Abra-

ham was instructed to move so often he became a wanderer.

Moses had to choose affliction over pleasure. And Christ, who was full of grace and truth, died the death of the crucifixion.

If our lives are to be successful, we must remember God's grace (even though it may be given to us as flowers or thorns) is always sufficient.

Leave a legacy of love

Oftentimes, we hang onto personal artifacts such as photos, clothing or knickknacks to keep memories of our loved ones fresh and alive. We do this because we know memories fade and we have forgotten more than we can remember. We hope these tangible personal belongings will stimulate our memories.

But what remains when the photos are lost, the clothing wears out and the knickknacks break? If the life we are considering was truly successful, there is one element that is more real than any of those. And that is love. A truly successful life is not successful because of the possessions left behind, but by the love that remains.

I am not trying to place my father, Gerald Gill, on a pedestal on which he does not belong. But I know he intended to incorporate the following characteristics in his life:

My father aimed to be patient and kind and not to be jealous. He tried not to brag, be arrogant or act unbecomingly. My father did not seek his own, was not provoked and did not take into account when he suffered wrongfully. He did not pursue unrighteousness, but truth (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Even after I keep some personal artifacts of my father, many of my specific memories of him will fail. But what will remain with me cannot be placed in a picture frame or on a fireplace mantel. What will remain with me is his legacy of love. As Paul stated, love never fails.

Is your life successful?

If I were to write a biography of my father, I would title the book *Gerald Gill: A Life Well Lived*. We need to ask ourselves: What would a biographer title a book about us?

In my opinion, based on considering the life of my father, our lives can be considered successful if we live for a cause greater than ourselves, remember God's grace is always sufficient, and we leave a legacy of love.

Teachings of the Son

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 Jan. 11, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Years ago, I gave a sermon titled “That God May Be All in All.” I chose the title of the sermon from the concluding phrase in 1 Corinthians 15:28.

1 Corinthians 15:24, 28—“Then comes the end, when He [Son] delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He [Son] puts an end to all rule and all authority and power . . . Now when all things are made subject to Him [Son], then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him [Father] who put all things under Him [Son], that God may be all in all.”

I also quoted John 5:22-23.

John 5:22-23—“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

I proceeded to give 10 ways we can show honor to the Son. This week we will look at the second concept—the teachings of the Son.

Where did He teach?

Notice a few scriptures that describe where the Son taught.

■ **Matthew 9:35**—He taught in their cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues.

■ **Matthew 13:1-2**—When multitudes followed Him, He would often teach them at that location.

■ **John 18:20**—He taught openly in synagogues and in the temple (where the Jews regularly met).

Words from the Father

One of the hallmarks of the Son is that He faithfully taught the words of the Father.

John 8:28-29—“Then Jesus said to them, ‘When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father

taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.’”

Examples of His teaching

Here are a few examples of what the Son taught.

■ **Matthew 5:2**—He began giving the teachings that have since been called the Sermon on the Mount (which demonstrated His support for the commandments of God).

■ **Matthew 5:21-26**—He taught a deeper approach to the Sixth Commandment.

■ **Matthew 5:27-32**—He taught a deeper approach to the Seventh Commandment.

■ **Matthew 7:1-5**—He taught them the importance of looking at their own mistakes instead of focusing on the mistakes of others.

■ **Matthew 9:12-13**—He taught the phrase “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.”

■ **Matthew 12:7**—He chided the Pharisees for not learning the phrase “I desire mercy and not sacrifice.”

■ **Matthew 13:10-15**—One of His effective teaching tools was the use of parables.

■ **Matthew 22:16**—He taught “the way of God in truth.”

■ **Mark 7:6-13**—While the religious leaders taught the traditions of men, He taught the commandments of God.

■ **Mark 8:31**—He began teaching that He would suffer, be rejected by the religious leaders (elders, chief priests and scribes), be killed and arise again three days later.

■ **Mark 9:31**—He taught that He would be killed and arise on the third day.

■ **Mark 11:17**—He taught that the temple should be a house of prayer and not a den of thieves.

■ **Mark 12:35-37**—He taught in the temple about David’s words in the Psalms. (The common people enjoyed hearing Him.)

■ **Luke 11:1-13**—He taught His disciples how to pray.