

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Feb. 6, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:57

Bible studies

Interactive study (1:00) Kemmer Pfund

Bible study (2:00) Reg Killingley

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Ron Avey

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Psalm 95 and Psalm 96

Sermon Reg Killingley

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havar is giving a sermon in Waco.
2. Planning a Fellowship Club—After the church service last week, Melodee Eishen recommended to Dave Havar that we schedule a Fellowship Club to discuss the book that he reviewed in the Jan. 30 bulletin. (She and her husband, David, had been reading the book.) Mr. Havar liked the idea and was even happier when she offered to prepare food for the event. We plan to announce details as they become firm.
3. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are mature and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.
4. Prayers for victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
5. Reminders for attending—Here are some reminders for people who choose to attend the church service in the building.
 - We do not provide masks or gloves. If these are important to you, please bring your own.
 - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.

6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Prolife Leaders March in D.C. to Commemorate 60 Million Killed" by Quinn Weimer.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "God Will Send Them Strong Delusion" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 38 pages.

Prayer updates

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

Please remember to pray for the following people who are rehabbing at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater—**Ron Feaker** and **Elaine Holloway**.

Donna Weese is presently in the Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater for scheduled rehab.

Following are excerpts from a report that **Becky Bonilla** sent about **David's** schedule with home care: "He has home health, nurse, aide, speech therapist and occupational therapist—which pretty well wear him out. The grandchildren help with lifting and some of the other duties as assigned. They are great helpers."

In the Jan. 23 bulletin, we mentioned that **Laura Moran** was diagnosed with emphysema. She visited a pulmonologist, who reported that she does not have emphysema.

On Friday, **Della Worden** went to a hospital in Houston for tests. Remember that Mrs. Worden was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in the summer of 2013. She was expected to live for only a few months—but she had treatment involving surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. She and her husband, **John**, are quick to give credit for her progress over the past six and one-half years to a merciful God. They both appreciate your prayers.

In the Jan. 9 bulletin, we mentioned that **Kevin Grizzle** (stepson of **Sonny Rosenberger**) had been diagnosed with covid. He reports: "I thought I was getting over the virus, but I am now having chest pains and breathing problems."

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Stan West** tested positive for covid and pneumonia. (In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Roxanna West** had previously tested positive for covid and early stages of pneumonia.) Mr. West stayed in the infusion center overnight for observation and scheduled treatment on Tuesday. He was released on Tuesday. Mr. West reported: "Feeling pretty good. No significant pain or respiratory issues. Both of us are working from home."

Mikey Jitjaeng (grandson of **Neil** and **Martha McIver**) has tested positive for covid.

John and **Helen Bair** of Pennsboro, W.Va., are dealing with health challenges. Mr. Bair recently had six skin cancers removed from his head. Mrs. Bair anticipates knee surgery.

On Thursday, **Joel Bair** of Loveland, Colo. (son of **John** and **Helen Bair** of West Virginia), died. Please remember his wife, **Joselyn**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Eye on the World

- An article by Michael W. Chapman titled “Nigerian Archbishop [Ignatius Kainigama]: ‘One of Biden’s First Official Acts Is to Promote Destruction of Human Lives’ ” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 3, 2021.
- An article by Patrick Goodenough titled “African Women to Biden: Please Don’t Fund Abortion in Africa” was posted at [cnsnews.com](https://www.cnsnews.com) on Feb. 4, 2021.
- An article by Jonathan Cahn titled “Jonathan Cahn’s Prophetic Message for President Joe Biden” was posted at [townhall.com](https://www.townhall.com) on Feb. 1, 2021.
- An article by Warner Todd Huston titled “Denzel Washington: I Don’t Care for People Who Put Down the Police and Soldiers Who Sacrifice Their Lives So We Have the Freedom to Complain About What They Do” was posted at [breitbart.com](https://www.breitbart.com) on Feb. 2, 2021.
- Looking back to January, an article by Yelena Dzhanova titled “Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk Increased Their Wealth by \$217 Billion in 2020; For This Amount, Over 100 Million Americans Could Get \$2,000 Checks” was posted at [businessinsider.com](https://www.businessinsider.com) on Jan. 2, 2021.

“God Will Send Them Strong Delusion”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, [churchofgodbigandy.com](https://www.churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Feb. 6, 2021.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—The world is filled with delusion. There is an interesting scripture in the book of Isaiah that mentions the conflict between good and evil. Notice Isaiah 5:20.

Isaiah 5:20—“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”

Who is responsible for all the delusion in this world? How is the devil involved? How is God involved?

Role of devil

Most religious people believe in the devil, and they are able to show scriptures about his involvement in delusion. Following are a few of those verses.

- Genesis 3:1-6
- Matthew 13:19
- John 8:44
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 11:3

■ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

■ Ephesians 2:2-3

How is God involved?

Yet there are also scriptures that include God’s involvement in delusion. Here’s one.

2 Thessalonians 2:11—“And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.”

How does God send delusion? I would like to quickly remind you about the book of Job so that we can recognize how God has worked in the past.

■ God initiated Job’s trial—Job 1:8 and Job 2:3.

■ God allowed Satan to provide the details of the trial—Job 1:11 and Job 2:4-5.

■ God approved the details of Satan’s plan (while putting boundaries upon Satan’s influence)—Job 1:12 and Job 2:6.

Back to 2 Thessalonians

What was the context in 2 Thessalonians 2:11 about God sending delusion?

People were troubled about the events surrounding the return of the Son of God (verses 1-2).

The apostle Paul reminded them about two factors—the falling away and the man of sin being revealed (verse 3).

Paul gave some descriptions about the man of sin (verses 4). In verses 7-12, Paul gave some additional descriptions about the lawless one.

- Verse 7—Mystery of lawlessness

- Verses 8-9—The lawless one

- Verse 10—The people did not receive the love of the truth.

- Verse 11—The people would believe the lie.

- Verse 12—The people did not believe the truth.

What is truth?

At this time, I want to mention a few comments about truth.

- Some religious people believe that “the Truth” is some specific doctrine (or doctrines) that only they can perceive.

- Truth is much bigger than merely doctrinal interpretations.

- Truth is that which is true.

- Do you love truth?

- Beware of emotionally clinging to error.

Two powerful tools

In 1 Corinthians 2:11, Paul mentioned two powerful tools to help people recognize truth—the spirit of the man (human reasoning as created by God) and the Spirit of God.

- The Spirit of God is far superior to the spirit of the man.

- It is possible for the spirit of the man to interfere with the effective working of the Spirit of God within a person.

- But human reasoning is a blessing from God. God created us to perform thinking functions far superior to cockroaches and the other animals that we can mention.

Good thinking skills

Following are a few scriptures to remind us about an effective spirit in man.

Matthew 7:1-5—“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the

measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

1 Corinthians 10:12—“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

Ephesians 4:26-27—“Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.”

2 Timothy 2:14-16—“Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.”

Hebrews 5:13-14—“For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

James 1:19-20—“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

Relationship with God

Following are a few scriptures to remind us about the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:11—“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit [which] dwells in you.”

Romans 8:16-17—“The Spirit [itself] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Ephesians 4:23-24—“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”