

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 31, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:18

### Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. . . . . Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 . . . . . Dave Havir  
(Also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader . . . . . Reg Killingley

Pianist . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading . . . . . Deuteronomy 28:15–45

Sermon . . . . . Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Subject of 1:00 interactive study—For those who are reading this bulletin Friday night on our website, the subject of today's interactive study is "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."
2. Wednesday-night Bible study on Aug. 4 at 7:00—People are encouraged to attend in the building or via a live transmission.
3. Upcoming guest speakers—We are pleased to announce that a few guest speakers will be visiting us in the coming weeks.
  - Aug. 7            George Crow
  - Aug. 21         Ben Mauldin III
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Cognitive Activity Can Delay Alzheimer's for Years" by Annie Lennon.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Armor of God—Belt of Truth" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 42 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, David Bonilla, 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**.

Here is an update about **Laura Moran**. Although the pneumonia is gone, she does have some fluid in her lungs. She continues to hear people talking to her, but her ability to communicate is still limited. In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that the family had hoped that the delay in her scheduled transfer to a facility in Mesquite might allow a new door to open in East Texas. The family appreciates your prayers about the destination for long-term care.

On Thursday, **Barbara Lingle** of Longview (sister of **Elaine Townsend**), who recently learned that the main artery in both legs was 100 percent blocked, had a procedure to address the left leg. The doctor inserted a balloon to clear the artery and inserted a stent.

**Herman Stevenson** (husband of **Dorothy Stevenson**), who is recovering from a stroke, is anticipating a move to a rehab facility this week. The family appreciates your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Martha McIver** has been dealing with anemia and low hemoglobin, and she had two procedures to examine if there is any internal bleeding. Although the doctor did not find any internal bleeding, she is still dealing with the anemia and weakness. (She feels especially weak when she recognizes her pulse dropping.) She is staying home today in an effort to rest.

## New prayer requests

Many months ago, we had prayer requests for **Jimmy** (now age 85) and **Jean Rogers** (now age 84) of Denton (who are members of our extended congregation). They request prayers again. Mr. Rogers (who had been diagnosed with liver cancer that has been in remission) had a CT-scan and learned of a small spot in the lower part of his right lung. On Monday, he has a doctor appointment to learn more about that diagnosis. That appointment may affect his scheduled heart catheterization, which had been scheduled for Aug. 4. (Months ago, we prayed for an apparent leak in a heart valve that has not given major problems.) Mrs. Rogers had back surgery (the insertion of a rod) that gave her some relief, but it turned out to be temporary. She appreciates your prayers for her, but she is especially requesting prayers for her husband. They thank you.

On Thursday, **David Hope** of Tulsa, Okla., had knee-replacement surgery.

## Thought for the week

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”—*Romans 12:21*

## Recent topics at Wednesday-night study

The following list of Bible study topics at the recent Wednesday-night Bible study is given for two reasons. First, this will give members of the congregation the opportunity to listen to subjects that they may have missed. Second, the pastor thinks that it is important for the congregation to see what subjects are on his mind.

- July 7                    Revelation 12:9—Who Is the Devil?
- July 14                  Revelation 12:9—Who Are the Devil's Angels?
- July 21                  Revelation 12:9—Devil and His Angels Were Cast Out
- July 28                  Armor of God—Belt of Truth

## Beware of miracles

**Deuteronomy 13:1-3**—"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods'—which you have not known—'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams . . ."

**Matthew 24:11**—"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many."

**Matthew 24:24**—"For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

**Luke 16:29-31**—"Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-11**—"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie."

**Revelation 13:3**—"And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast."

**Revelation 13:11-15**—"Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed."

## “Armor of God—Belt of Truth”

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 July 31, 2021.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—One of the most encouraging sections of Scripture is found in the book of Ephesians. In that letter, the apostle Paul described a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-13) and the spiritual weapons (verses 14-17) available for the children of God to use.

In this article, we will discuss the first weapon—called the belt of truth (verse 14).

### What is truth?

For the sake of this article, we will define truth in the following two ways.

- A way of life
- That which is true

### More than a set of doctrines

Some among the Church of God congregations make the mistake of viewing “the truth” as a specific set of church doctrines. However, truth is more than a specific set of church doctrines.

Most of the religious people in my circle of life believe that we are saved by grace and therefore our Heavenly Father has expectations of us. One of the best illustrations of that is the giving of the Ten Commandments.

■ Exodus 20:2 reminded the children of Israel that they were delivered from bondage.

■ Exodus 20:3-17 listed basic expectations that the Father had given to them.

### Way of life

One of the best examples of the truth being a way of life is found in Matthew 19:16-21.

A young man asked the Son of God how he could have eternal life (verse 16). The Son of God told him to keep the Commandments (verse 17). The young man asked which ones and the Son of God mentioned Commandments five through nine (verses 18-19).

The young man replied that he had kept those from his youth (verse 20). At that point, the Son of God instructed him to overcome a particular weakness that he had (verses 21-22).

### That which is true

I would like to leave you with some reminders.

■ God cannot lie (Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:17-18).

■ The devil is a persistent liar (John 8:44 and Revelation 12:10).

■ The Son of God came to bear witness to what is true (John 18:37).

■ Spiritual truth is a miracle (Ephesians 1:17-18).

■ Accepting truth must be stronger than the pull of spectacular physical miracles (Deuteronomy 13:1-6, Matthew 24:24, Luke 16:31, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 and Revelation 13:13-15).

■ Truth is stronger than illusion (Matthew 23:25-28, 2 Corinthians 4:2 and Ephesians 4:14).

■ Truth is stronger than self-deception (1 Corinthians 3:18, Galatians 6:3, James 1:26 and Revelation 3:17-19).

### They think they are Philadelphians

Do you want to hear something a little amusing? People who proudly boast that they have the label of the Philadelphia congregation (Revelation 3:7-13) actually have the behavior of the Laodicean congregation (Revelation 3:14-22).

**Revelation 3:17-18**—“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.”

### Sanctified by truth

**John 17:17-19**—“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”