

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Oct. 9, 2021 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:54

### 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** . . . . . Neil McIver

**Pianist** . . . . . Dixon Cartwright

**Scripture reading** . . . . . Revelation 2:1–7

**Sermon** . . . . . Dave Havir

### Quick takes

1. Handout for last Wednesday night—There is a handout on the Information Table for the Bible study last Wednesday night (titled “Matthew 24:1-5”).
2. Wednesday-night Bible study on Oct. 13—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is scheduled for Oct. 13.
3. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.
  - Mickey Ashcraft
  - David and Becky Bonilla
  - Timberly Dunnam
  - Elaine Holloway
  - Laura Moran
  - Annette Payne
  - Ruth Roe
  - Sonny Rosenberger
  - Ronnie Shirley
  - Elaine Townsend
  - Donna Weese
4. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “America’s Three Founding Documents” by Don Sweeting.
5. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Matthew 24:1-5” by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 40 pages.

## Prayer updates

Here is an update concerning **Laura Moran**. Because she needs more care, the hospital moved her to a section (but not hospice care) that gives additional care and less visitation.

**Dorothy Stevenson** reports that her husband, **Herman**, continues to improve at home. They thank you for your prayers.

**Sharon Burgin** would like to thank everyone for the prayers during her recent surgery. While she is recuperating, she would appreciate your continued prayers for a complete recovery.

In the Sept. 11 bulletin, we mentioned that **Jimmy Rogers** of Denton learned that the mass in the lower part of his right lung is cancer. On Tuesday, Sept. 28, a doctor performed a biopsy. On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the doctor confirmed that the mass was small. If the cancer has not spread to other parts of his body, the doctor is confident that radiation will be the proper procedure.

**Mario Guerra** of St. Louis, Mo. (husband of **Cathy** and brother-in-law of **Carol Bald**), who had a permanent shunt inserted in his brain on Sept. 27, moved to a rehab facility on Monday (Oct. 4) and began intensive physical and cognitive therapy for 21 days.

## New prayer requests

Please remember to pray for the individuals who have been diagnosed with covid. Some of the people dealing with covid are **Don Bjoraker, Eric Case, Ken Collinsworth, Dwayne Gallia, Linda Gallia, Gayle Hoefker, Scott Hoefker, Bobbi Jones, Tim Kelley, Jennifer Killingley, Wynn Skelton, Toby Shipman, Dorothy Thomas** (sister of **Shirley Spearman**) and **Gary Woodring**.

On Wednesday, **Ron Avey** is scheduled for a heart catheterization. His doctors are trying to find out what is causing an inconsistent heart rate and a loss of heart efficiency. He would greatly appreciate your prayers during this operation.

**Bobbi Jones** of California (who recently lost her husband, **Jerry**) fell on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. After going to the ER, she is recovering. The good news is that a doctor reported that there was no internal bleeding in her head. The bad news is that she hurt her back. A valuable lesson is that she realizes that she needs to increase her calories to improve her strength.

**Amy Brady** of Hawkins had tests that revealed challenges with her heart. She is anticipating additional tests.

**Brenda Maness** of Oklahoma is recovering from knee-replacement surgery.

**Phil Blood** (who has family in Big Sandy) is scheduled for prostate-cancer surgery on Oct. 25.

**Ambrose Whaley** of Missouri died on Oct. 2. Please remember his wife, **Diane**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

## “Matthew 24:1–5”

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 Oct. 9, 2021.

**By Dave Havir**

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At a Bible study on Wednesday, Oct. 6, I began a series covering Matthew 24. The first study was about Matthew 24:1-5. Following are some of the ideas mentioned in that Bible study.

While at the temple, the Son of God told His disciples that the temple would be toppled (Matthew 24:1-2).

### **They asked some questions**

In Matthew 24:3, the disciples came to the Son of God privately and asked three questions.

- When will these things happen?
- What will be the sign of Your coming?
- What will be the sign of the end of the age?

### **Two ways to watch**

Bible students occasionally argue about the concept of “watching” mentioned in Matthew 24. From my perspective, there are two main themes about watching that are mentioned in Matthew 24.

■ Watching means noticing world events.

■ Watching means focusing upon our personal behavior.

Both approaches fall within the scope of the Greek word used in Matthew 24 to describe “watch.”

According to *Strong’s Concordance*, the Greek word (*gregoreo*) is a verb meaning “to keep watch” and “be on guard.”

### **Personal behavior**

Notice the context in Matthew 24 about watching personal behavior.

■ Matthew 24:42-44 describes watching because a person does not know when a thief will come.

■ Matthew 24:45-47 describes a person being rewarded for his good behavior.

■ Matthew 24:48-51 describes a per-

son facing consequences for his bad behavior.

### **Noticing world events**

Notice the context in Matthew 24 about noticing world events. Asking “when” involves watching world events.

■ Matthew 24:3 quotes the disciples asking, “When will these things be?”

■ Matthew 24:15 quotes the Son of God saying, “When you see . . .” before He gives them instructions.

■ Matthew 24:32 quotes the Son of God telling them to watch conditions to know what time it is.

■ Matthew 24:33 quotes the Son of God saying, “When you see all these things, know that it is near—at the door.”

### **Watching is not the problem**

Obviously, watching world events is not the problem. So what is the problem?

**Matthew 24:36**—“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”

The problem rests with presumptuous proclaimers and insecure hearers.

### **Presumptuous proclaimers**

Why do people insist upon announcing the day and hour (or even the year) of something they do not know?

Presumptuousness?

Arrogance?

Seeking to control the flock?

Seek to merchandise the flock?

Prediction addiction often affects presumptuous proclaimers.

### **Insecure hearers**

Why do people insist upon listening to people announcing the day and hour (or even the year) of something the proclaimers do not know?

Insecurity?

Gullibility?

Being a sucker?

Prediction addiction often affects insecure hearers.

### Let no one deceive you

The Son of God began His instruction with advice to avoid deception.

**Matthew 24:5-6**—“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.”

Please notice two ways to view the statement “I am the Christ.”

### Claiming to be Christ

The Bible warns about some people who actually claim that they themselves are Christ.

■ Matthew 24:24

■ 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

(For the record, I have not personally met anyone who claims to be Christ.)

### Acknowledging Christ

The Bible warns about many people who will acknowledge the role of the Son of God—without truly representing the truth that He taught.

**Matthew 7:21-23**—“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

### False brethren

Notice two examples of false brethren among the Body of Christ. Notice that one group wants to use the beautiful law as a weapon of bondage, and the other group wants to use grace as a means to eliminate consequences.

**Galatians 2:4**—“And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage).”

**Jude 4**—“For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### False apostles

**2 Corinthians 11:13-14**—“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”

**Revelation 2:2**—“And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars.”

### False prophets

**Matthew 7:15, 20**—“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves . . . Therefore by their fruits you will [ultimately] know them.”

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

### False teachers

**1 Timothy 6:3-5**—“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”

**2 Peter 2:1-3**—“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”