

Church of God Big Sandy
ChurchofGodBigSandy.com
July 30, 2022

BIBLE STUDIES

Interactive study--1:00 p.m.

Dave Havir

Presentation study--2:00

Dave Havir

(Also transmitted live)

ORDER OF SERVICE

Song leader

Reg Killingley

Pianist

Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading

Ecclesiastes 7:1-10

Sermon

Jim Bald

QUICK TAKES

1. Update on church equipment--In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that Dave Havir and Dixon Cartwright may have each lost a computer in the lightning storm on July 22. Early this week, the two men took their machines to a place in Longview for an evaluation. The company considered that the machines might be salvaged. Since the company was not able to finish their evaluation of the machines by Friday afternoon, Mr. Cartwright was not able to format the bulletin in our traditional format.

2. Traveling speakers--We are pleased to announce the following traveling speakers coming to our congregation--Blake Silverstein on August 13 and Wynn Skelton on August 20.

3. Edifying the Body--This week's article is postponed.

4. Among Friends--This week's article is "Psalm 15:1-5" by Dave Havir.

5. Eye on the World--This week's "Eye on the World" is 21 pages. (This edition has two short articles and 238 headlines.)

PRAYER UPDATES

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Linda Avey** was scheduled for MRI and MRA tests last Monday. Unfortunately, Mrs. Avey experienced too much pain (from

the broken ribs) at the beginning of the tests, and the tests were discontinued. She and Ron appreciate your prayers.

Dixon Cartwright reports that the neck pain wasn't any worse this week.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Elaine Townsend** was around family who had been diagnosed with covid. On Sunday, Mrs. Townsend informed us that she had covid.

In last week's church service, we mentioned that **Dorothy Jones** of Lindale (mother of **Shirley Spearman**) was dealing with a lack of energy. Mrs. Jones reports only a slight improvement.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Sherry Noreen** of Minnesota had a thyroid biopsy. She reported that the biopsy tested benign.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Neil McIver** had covid. Although he is feeling better, **Martha** was diagnosed with covid last Saturday.

Alice Day of Marshalltown, Iowa (mother of **David Coleman**), has been demonstrating symptoms of a failing heart.

Carlos Gutierrez of Big Sandy had a thyroid scan this week to determine which part needed a biopsy. He expects to hear the results soon.

On July 21, **Wanda Ward** of Big Sandy had a heart catheterization and learned that she had a 95 percent blockage in one of her main heart arteries. The cardiologist inserted a stent, it reportedly did not alleviate the problem. On July 26, she went to an emergency room and was admitted to a hospital. After blood work and an x-ray of her chest, she returned home later in the week. She continues to struggle with extreme weakness and shortness of breath.

Lisa Grady of Apopka, Fla. (daughter of **Annette Payne**), died on July 6. Please remember her husband, **Jim**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Joanne Wunch of Kilgore (sister of **Annette Payne**) died on July 23. Please remember her husband, **Karl**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

A THOUGHT WITH A TWIST

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"If Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser says 4,000 illegal aliens coming to her

city constitutes a "humanitarian crisis" and a "tipping point," how should we describe 3.5 million illegal aliens breaking into the U.S. through the southern border?"--Many observant people.

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PSALM 15:1-5

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 July 30, 2022.

BY DAVE HAVIR

BIG SANDY, Texas--Because disciples are saved by grace, many look to the Bible to learn about God's expectations for them. While disciples love the teachings of the New Testament, they also enjoy reading some of the valuable instructions in the Old Testament.

A psalm of David (Psalm 15) mentions some characteristics that please our heavenly Father. Let's take a quick look at some lessons found in the five verses.

Verse 1

David begins the psalm by asking two related questions.

Psalm 15:1--"Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?"

Exodus 25:8--"And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them."

Exodus 25:22--"And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat."

Exodus 29:43, 45--"And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by My glory . . . I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God."

Hebrews 12:22--"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem . . ."

Verses 2-3

Psalm 15:2-3--"He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the

truth in his heart. He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up reproach against his friend."

Leviticus 19:16--"You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord."

Psalms 50:19-20--"You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son."

Proverbs 3:29--"Do not devise evil against your neighbor, for he dwells by you for safety's sake."

Proverbs 8:7--"For my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips."

Proverbs 11:9--"The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered."

Proverbs 11:13--"A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter."

Proverbs 12:20--"Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy."

Proverbs 16:27-30--"An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends. A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good. He winks his eye to devise perverse things; he purses his lips and brings about evil."

Proverbs 18:8--"The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body."

Proverbs 21:10--"The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes."

Proverbs 25:18--"A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow."

Zephaniah 2:3--"Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger."

Zechariah 8:16-17--"These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace. Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; and do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate."

Verse 4

Psalms 15:4--"In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear

the Lord; he who swears to his own hurt and does not change.”

* Honoring those who love God

Proverbs 1:7-9--“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a grateful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.”

Proverbs 15:33--“The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.”

Proverbs 31:25--“Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.”

Malachi 3:16-18--“Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the Lord and who meditate on His name. ‘They shall be Mine,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘on the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.’ Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.”

*Not changing testimony

Leviticus 19:15--“You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.”

Proverbs 12:17--“He who speaks truth declares righteousness. But a false witness, deceit.”

Proverbs 14:5--“A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies.”

Proverbs 14:25--“A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies.”

Proverbs 19:28--“A disreputable witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.”

Zechariah 8:17--“Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; and do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate.”

Verse 5

Psalms 15:5--“He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.”

* No usury for extortion

Notice what the *Holman Bible Dictionary* says about usury (on page 1386).

"A sum of money charged for a loan. The Old Testament laws prohibited a Jew from charging another Jew usury but permitted it when money was loaned to a Gentile (Deut. 23:19-20) . . . Excessive usury was condemned."

Deuteronomy 23:19-20--"You shall not charge interest to your brother--interest on money or food or anything that is lent out at interest. To a foreigner you may charge interest, but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that the Lord your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess."

Proverbs 28:8--"One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor."

Ezekiel 22:12-13--" 'In you they take bribes to shed blood; you take usury and increase; you have made profit from your neighbors by extortion, and have forgotten Me,' says the Lord God. 'Behold, therefore, I beat My fists at the dishonest profit which you have made, and at the bloodshed which has been in your midst.'"

* Not taking bribes

Deuteronomy 16:19--"You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous."

Proverbs 17:23--"A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice."

Micah 3:11--"Her heads judge for a bribe, her priests teach for pay, and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord, and say, 'Is not the Lord among us? No harm can come upon us.'"

Summary verse

Isaiah 33:15-16--"He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: he will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure."

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