

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 31, 2022 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:24

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m.

Dixon Cartwright

Presentation study—2:00

Mark Weiss

(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader

Mark Weiss

Pianist

Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading

Hebrews 10:1-39

Sermon

Reg Killingley

Quick takes

1. Pastor's trip—Today, Dave Havar is visiting a congregation in Henderson, because of an invitation by Don Smith, who is an elder in that congregation. (Mr. Smith graduated from college with Mr. Havar in 1974 and went on an archeological project in Jerusalem with Mr. Havar in the summer of 1972.) If you were in Big Sandy for the 2022 Feast of Tabernacles, you might remember that Mr. Smith gave a split sermon in our congregation and helped to arrange the visit to the museum in Henderson in October. Mr. Smith is scheduled to give a sermon here on Feb. 18.

2. Wednesday-night Bible study—The next Wednesday-night Bible study is Jan. 4.

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
- Annette Payne
- Ruth Roe
- Sonny Rosenberger
- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Donna Weese

4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "An Outlook of Hope for 2023" by Oliver North and David Goetsch.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "The Ninth Commandment" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—This week's "Eye on the World" is 35 pages. (This edition has 310 headlines.)

Prayer updates

In the Nov. 12 bulletin, we mentioned that **David Coleman** learned that he had a mass on his right kidney. In the Dec. 3 bulletin, we mentioned that Mr. Coleman was scheduled for surgery on Jan. 3. Mr. Coleman and **Joyce** appreciate your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that the scorpion sting on the leg of **Bernice Burson** was improving. Although this sting does improve at times, it also has days when it reverts to a problem. Please continue to pray for a complete recovery.

In the Dec. 3 bulletin, we mentioned that **Fran Baron** of Big Sandy had surgery for a blood clot to the brain. On Thursday, she was released from a rehab facility to her home. Because she may not qualify for nursing-home care, she is scheduled to have home health care.

In the Dec. 3 bulletin, we mentioned that **Larry Shore** of Maryville, Tenn., was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. He is scheduled for heart catheterization on Jan. 3.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Scott Baril** of Wisconsin (son of **Kate Vincent**) had back surgery and was resting at home. While at home, Mr. Baril began experiencing incoherent behavior. When he went to the hospital, the hospital personnel diagnosed that he was not having a stroke but they could not explain what it was. Mrs. Vincent appreciates your prayers for her son.

New prayer requests

On Monday evening, **Martha McIver** went to an ER in Longview and was diagnosed with a strong case of pneumonia. She was admitted to receive antibiotics and was able to return home on Thursday.

Mel Edelbach of Elgin, Minn. (father of **Jeanine Case**), had surgery for a blocked bowel. Doctors also removed scar tissue and fixed a twisted gut.

Linda Morrill of Chandler, Ariz., has been dealing with one of the flu variations.

On Thursday, **Art Williams** of Tulsa, Okla, was rushed to a hospital with slurred speech.

Bill Stenger of Weeki Wachee, Fla., went to a hospital due to weakness and infection in his legs.

Maggie Blood of Big Sandy is experiencing blood in her right eye (possibly due to cataract surgery she had one month ago).

Harold Eaton of Knoxville, Tenn., died on Dec. 29. Please remember his wife, **Wendy**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Synopsis of board meeting on Dec. 27

- The board unanimously approved an amended 2022 budget. In the middle of the year, the board had discussed and agreed to undertake some maintenance items in 2022 before the costs are expected to increase in 2023. Instead of adjusting the budget as each project was done, the board members knew they could make an adjustment at the end of the year.
- The board discussed and approved a budget for 2023.
- To keep the meeting short, Dave Havir distributed a pastor's report to each board member.

Thought for the week

"Reading can seriously damage your ignorance."

Thought with a twist

When is it okay to kiss someone. A 7-year-old boy answered: "The law says you have to be 18, so I wouldn't want to mess with that."



“The Ninth Commandment”

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 Dec. 31, 2022.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Ninth Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

Grace and expectations

Exodus 20:2—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Exodus 20:16—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Things God hates

In Proverbs 6:16-19, we see a list of seven characteristics that God hates. Bible students recognize that two of the characteristics are associated with the Ninth Commandment.

- The second characteristic is "a lying tongue" (verse 17).
- The sixth characteristic is "a false witness who speaks lies" (verse 19).

Four concepts

In the Bible-study presentation, I organized my material into four concepts. In this article, I will refer to those four different concepts.

You shall not lie

Although the ninth commandment does not use the word "lie," there is certainly a general understanding that this commandment teaches people not to lie. Notice a few scriptures about lying.

- *John 8:44*—The devil is a liar, and the father of lies.
- *Revelation 2:2*—Disciples at Ephesus tested those who claimed to be religious leaders and found them to be liars.
- *Revelation 21:8*—Included in the list of behaviors associated with the "second death" is the phrase "all liars."
- *Revelation 21:27*—Included in the list of behaviors associated with being excluded from entrance into the heavenly temple are those who lie.
- *Revelation 22:15*—Included in the list of behaviors associated with being excluded from the heavenly city are those who love and practice a lie.

At this point, I want to give my common defense of a lady called Rahab—who is a lady praised in the Bible for deception (many would call lying) that saved lives.

In Joshua 2:4-6, Rahab hid the two men on her roof and told four fantastic statements to the men from the King of Jericho.

- "The men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."
- "As the gate was being shut (when it was dark), the men went out." (They were on the roof.)
- "Where the men went, I do not know." (They were on the roof.)
- "Pursue them quickly for you may overtake them." (They were on the roof.)

Let me tell you why I view Rahab as a hero.

Hebrews 11:31—"By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

James 2:25—"Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?"

No false witness in a court case

- *Exodus 23:1*—Do not circulate a false report and do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.
- *Deuteronomy 19:16*—A witness should not arise to testify falsely against another.
- *Zechariah 8:17*—Do not love a false oath.

Have you ever noticed how many times that the Bible talks about having two or three witnesses?

- Numbers 35:30
- Deuteronomy 17:6-7
- Deuteronomy 19:15
- Matthew 18:16
- John 8:17
- 2 Corinthians 13:1
- 1 Timothy 5:19
- Hebrews 10:28

No false witness in daily living

- *Psalms 35:11-14*—When false witnesses arose against David, he may have avoided them but he prayed for them.
- *Matthew 26:57-65*—The chief priests, elders and council sought false testimony against the Son of God to put Him to death.
- *Acts 6:11*—The leaders secretly induced men to speak against Stephen.
- *Acts 6:13*—The leaders set up false witnesses to speak against Stephen.

The liar received the penalty

In God's law, the false witness received the penalty of his lie.

Deuteronomy 19:18-19—"If the witness is a false witness against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother."