

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 15, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:48

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons

Presentation study—2:00 Ken Tate
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Exodus 15:1–18

Sermon Ken Tate

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Ken and Janice Tate from northwest Arkansas.
2. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is giving a sermon in the Houston area.
3. Next Wednesday-night Bible study this week—April 19.
4. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.
 - Mickey Ashcraft
 - Sonny Rosenberger
 - Timberly Dunnam
 - Ronnie Shirley
 - Annette Payne
 - Elaine Townsend
 - Ruth Roe
 - Donna Weese
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Dwell on the Positive" by Dave Havir.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Why Should God's Children Obey?" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—The version of this week's "Eye on the World" that is distributed in the hall is 40 pages. (The number of pages on the website varies slightly due to a different layout program.) This edition has 372 headlines and two articles.

Thought for the week

“The whole world is a series of miracles. But we are so used to them, we call them ordinary things.”—*Hans Christian Andersen*

Thought with a twist

"Do you remember what Snow White said when she came out of the photo booth? Someday, my prints will come."

Prayer updates

Here is a report from **Angela Dunnam** about her lumpectomy and lymph-node removal last Wednesday morning: “Everything went well today. Really sore and tender, but that’s expected. The surgeon thought the lymph node looked good, but we will know for sure maybe next week. I go to see him next Tuesday. Thanks for prayers, encouragement and support to our family. We love you all.”

Ruth Roe continued to have pain in her left leg this week. Her children (who do not live in the area) are recommending to her that she visit a chiropractor. Many of her friends have offered to take her, but she has decided to wait until after the weekend. (She did ask **Dave Havir** to bring her a certain brand of bread and a certain drink that she enjoys.) She appreciates your prayers.

Gary Wilson continues to rehab. Although he understands that all of us have busy schedules, he would appreciate people stopping by the rehab facility to see him. And, if you aren’t able to go there, he definitely appreciates your prayers.

Please remember to ask God to help **Lisa Smith** deal with her stress level as she has been helping Gary Wilson.

New prayer requests

On Thursday, **Brandi West** (daughter of **Stan** and **Roxanna West**) went to an ER in Tyler, where she was diagnosed with a 12-mm kidney stone and decided to have surgery to address the matter. Here are excerpts from a report by Mr. West earlier that night: “She was taken to the ER around 6:00 to have a stent to drain her left kidney. If that doesn’t work, they will insert a tube through her back to drain in a bag . . . Due to an infection, they cannot remove the large kidney stone until they clear up the infection (hopefully next week). The plan is she should be released tomorrow [Friday] to recover from this first go-around. We all thank you for your prayers.” Here are excerpts from a report by Mrs. West later that night: “Surgery went smooth. One stent, but the infection was worse than expected, so watching closely tonight. She is on a good antibiotic. Please pray for infection to clear.”

Doris Tuel of Gilmer (mother of **Ronnie Tuel**) has dementia and recently fell.

Throughout the years, **Mickey Voyce** has asked **Dave Havir** to anoint her but had instructed him to refrain from putting an announcement in the bulletin. On Friday, she specifically asked Mr. Havir to request prayers for an “upcoming surgery and subsequent medical treatment.” She would appreciate your prayers.

Nic Gavin of Leicester, England (cousin of **Reg Killingley**), has serious mobility issues and has lost 95 percent of his hearing. His wife, **Karen**, has Parkinson’s disease.

Elaine Holloway died on April 13. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“Why Should God’s Children Obey?”

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 April 15, 2023.

By **Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—On the seventh day of Unleavened Bread, I had the opportunity to give a Bible study, and I gave a presentation with the identical title of this article.

In that Bible study, I discussed three reasons why God’s children obey our Heavenly Father. Here are some of the scriptures that I read.

To be blessed now

Obedying our Heavenly Father is a wise goal for God’s children to prioritize. This may seem like an obvious statement to make: Obeying God is smart.

Deuteronomy 30:15-16—“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.”

Deuteronomy 30:19—“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

To be blessed at the resurrection

Luke 14:12-14—The Son of God said: “When you give a dinner or a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid.

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

To willingly honor our Father now

■ Exodus 20:2—After God delivered the children of Israel from bondage, He gave them the Ten Commandments as the foundation of His expectations for their behavior—establishing these principles as goals that an appreciative people should willingly seek to do.

■ Matthew 5:14-16—In the Sermon on the Mount, the Son of God taught His disciples to do good behavior, so that observers could glorify the Father in heaven.

■ Romans 6:1-2—Since God has given grace to His children, they should certainly seek to avoid repeating sins in their lives.

■ 2 Corinthians 9:7—Children of God should be cheerful givers.

■ 1 Peter 5:2-4—Children of God should behave willingly and eagerly—being an example to others instead of being an overlord.

Solid foundation of God stands

2 Timothy 2:19—“The solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows those who are His’ and ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’”

2 Timothy 2:21—“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

“Dwell on the Positive”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of April 15, 2023.

By **Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—When I recently heard a sermon on the seventh day of Unleavened Bread, one of the men in our congregation (Reg Killingley) gave a wonderful sermon about Philippians 4:8.

I love that scripture—having spoken about that subject many times and having written about the topic on occasion. (In 2019, I wrote an eight-part series of articles about Philippians 4:8.)

Mr. Killingley accomplished what an experienced speaker does—he influenced me to study my Bible about the subject again.

Dwell on positive

One of the best pieces of advice that a mental-health professional can give to people is: “Focus upon the positive factors of this life.”

Mr. Killingley effectively reminded us about the value of Philippians 4:8.

Recognize negative

One of the keys of happiness in life is to learn how to recognize the negative in our journey of life—before we come to the point of dwelling on the positive.

Building a relationship with the Father and the Son is the most important action of life. The Son of God instructed potential followers to “count the cost” (Luke 14:26-33).

If that spectacular relationship has some negatives, every other part of life has some negatives—including your new car, new house, new job and the person you intend to marry.

End with positive

While it is important to recognize the negative aspects of life, it is necessary to dwell on the positive. That order is important.

Do you remember an important lesson when Moses sent individuals to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:17-33)?

■ Numbers 13:26-27—The spies began their report with their positive evaluation—even showing the impressive fruit of the land.

■ Numbers 13:28-29—But the spies then proceeded to dwell on the challenges of the land.

■ Numbers 13:30—Caleb mentioned the mistake of giving the report in the wrong order, and he stressed the positive.

■ Numbers 13:31-33—But the other spies were consumed by the negative.

Helpful project

At this time, I would like to present you with a project. Would you consider looking through the Bible for examples of people who first recognized the negative and then ended up dwelling on the positive?

Here are a few examples to help you get started.

■ Genesis 50:20—Joseph recognized that his brothers meant evil against him, but he focused upon the good that God was creating.

■ Daniel 3:17-18—Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego recognized the possibility of dying in the furnace, but they focused upon continuing to obey God.

■ Matthew 26:36-44—The Son of God recognized the consequences of His trial, but He focused upon doing God’s will.

■ John 16:21-22—The Son of God reminded His disciples that the journey may have the pain of childbirth, but it will also have the joy of children.

■ Romans 12:17-21—The apostle Paul reminded friends that they should recognize evil, but should avoid revenge and seek to overcome evil with good.

■ 2 Timothy 4:14-15—The apostle Paul reminded friends that they should recognize people seeking to harm them, but should let God do the repaying.

■ 2 Corinthians 1:3-10—The apostle Paul reminded friends that they should recognize the burden of trials, but should focus upon God’s deliverance.

God bless your Bible study. And remember to dwell on the positive.