

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 4, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:26

Bible studies

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

Presentation study—2:00 Ben Mauldin III
(Also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Psalm 23:1–6

Sermon Ben Mauldin III

Quick takes

1. Welcome to our traveling speaker—The congregation thanks Ben Mauldin III for giving the 2:00 p.m. Bible study and for speaking at the 3:00 p.m. church service.
2. Daylight-saving time ends tomorrow—This is a reminder that daylight-saving time ends tomorrow morning.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Nov. 8 at 7:00 p.m.
4. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- Angela Dunnam
- Timberly Dunnam
- Annette Payne
- Ruth Roe

- Ronnie Shirley
- Elaine Townsend
- Mickey Voyce
- Donna Weese

5. Big Sandy community Thanksgiving church service—You are invited to the annual community Thanksgiving church service.
 - Sunday, Nov. 19
 - 5:00 p.m.
 - Civic Center in Big Sandy
6. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "How Would Frederick Douglass Regard Today's Left?" by Dennis Prager.
7. Among Friends—This week's article is "God's Deliverance Through Hiding" by Dave Havir.
8. Eye on the World—32 pages with 262 headlines and five articles.

Prayer updates

Linda Avey gave the following report to **Dave Havir** on Friday, Oct. 27: "My second surgery on Monday [Oct. 23] for the placement of the shunt in my arm for possible dialysis went well. I got encouraging news today from my kidney doctor—that my kidney function has slightly improved. Thank you all for your love, prayers and support on my behalf."

Ruth Roe reported that her knee has continued to hurt and she has been confined to the house. She reports that her granddaughter (who lives in the Pittsburg area) is very helpful to her.

New prayer requests

Bill Short of Creve Coeur, Ill. (age 91), recently fell and broke his right hip. He had a partial hip replacement and repair.

Jim Osborn of Terre Haute, Ind., fell and hurt his neck. He has been treated in a hospital. At his age (94), his frail bone structure eliminated him as a candidate for repair surgery. A neck brace will be necessary for quite a while. Following are excerpts from a family member: "He got a better-fitting neck brace/collar today, got out of bed and walked a bit. He had more energy (his original neck brace made swallowing difficult, so he was getting dehydrated) and has begun eating more. The hospital is ready to discharge him to a rehabilitation facility. We are making plans for what needs to be done at his house (wheelchair ramp, a few more bathroom grab handles, etc.). Family is there with him 24 hours a day, and we appreciate your prayers for wisdom and healing."

Wanda Cleveland of Big Sandy had a cyst removed from her throat and will be having hip-replacement surgery on Nov. 13.

Gary Demarest of East Texas had successful surgery to remove a cancerous mass.

Don Mason of Liberty, Ky., died on Oct. 26. Please remember his wife, **Geri**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Emma Lou Bacher (a member of our congregation who lived in the Dallas area) died on Oct. 31. The family informed **Dave Havir** that she will be cremated, and family members are communicating with him about scheduling the time for a memorial service over there in the near future. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Sheila Cemer of Tomball (daughter-in-law of **Sue Jones**) died on Nov. 3. Please remember her husband, **Ron**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Thought for the week

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”—*Aristotle*

Thought with a twist

“Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them you are a mile away from them and you have their shoes.”—*Jack Handey*

“God’s Deliverance Through Hiding”

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 Nov. 4, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about God’s deliverance. I love talking about this subject.

In 2009, I gave a similar series in consecutive Bible studies. In 2020, I gave a similar series in consecutive sermons. Although the five main concepts remained the same, those presentations used a variety of different verses from the Bible.

Foundational verse

This series is based upon 1 Corinthians 10:13—stressing how God is faithful.

■ God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.

■ God will make a way of escape.

■ God will make you able to bear it.

Hiding is an acceptable escape

Part 3 of this series discusses “Escape

Through Hiding.”

There are some people reading this article who will believe that hiding is for cowards and is “never” an acceptable approach to be asserted by faithful disciples. However, students of the Bible are aware that such a belief is erroneous—no matter how loudly some preachers and religious people espouse such an opinion.

How do we know that hiding is sometimes an acceptable escape?

Check out that the Bible reveals that the perfect Son of God used hiding as an escape.

Not the right time

The Son of God was certainly not a coward. So why did He at times hide from danger? He hid because it wasn’t the right time for Him to do anything else.

John 8:59—“Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the

midst of them, and so passed by.”

John 10:39-40—“Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed.”

John 12:36—“These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.”

Hiding from Pharaoh and Herod

■ Exodus 2:2—Moses’ mother hid him for three months.

■ Matthew 2:13—Joseph took his wife and Child to Egypt.

Rahab hid the spies

■ Joshua 2:1-6—Rahab hid the two men from the king of Jericho—and she saved them by telling lies for a righteous reason (to save lives).

Rahab had put the spies on the roof (verse 6), but notice the four statements she made (verses 4-5).

■ The men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. (She knew who sent the spies.)

■ When it was time to close the gate at dark, the men left. (She knew that the spies didn’t leave, because she put them on the roof.)

■ I don’t know where they went. (She knew exactly where the spies were, because she put them on the roof.)

■ Pursue them quickly and you can still catch them. (She knew that they couldn’t catch the spies outside the gate, because she put the spies on the roof.)

Was God pleased with her behavior? Check out Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25.

Men of Israel hid

■ 1 Samuel 13:6—When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger, they hid in various places—cave, thickets, rocks, holes and pits.

David hid

■ 1 Samuel 19:2—Jonathan advised David to stay in a secret place and hide.

■ 1 Samuel 22:1—David escaped to the cave of Adullam and wrote a couple of psalms from there (Psalm 57 and Psalm 142).

Elijah hid

■ 1 Kings 17:1-4—After Elijah spoke boldly to King Ahab, God told Elijah to hide by the brook.

Prophets hid

■ Isaiah 16:3—Hide the outcasts.

■ Isaiah 26:20—Enter the chambers and shut the doors behind you—hide yourself for a little moment until the indignation is past.

■ Zephaniah 2:3—Seek the Lord that you may be hidden in the day of the Lord’s anger.

Paul hid

■ Acts 9:22-25—When the Jews at that time plotted to kill Paul and were watching the gates day and night, the disciples lowered him down the wall in a large basket.

Appreciate the poetic language

When some religious people read Revelation 12:14, they take the phrase “her place” as a guarantee that there is only one place of nourishment and protection. I like to remind people about the poetic language of the passage.

■ Revelation 12:14—The woman was given “two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly” into the wilderness.

Through the years, I have heard people speculate that the eagle with two wings is an airplane. That is a great speculation but should not be espoused as absolute truth—just as “her place” should not be espoused as absolutely only one location.

By the way, have you ever compared Revelation 12:14 with Exodus 19:4?

■ Exodus 19:4—The Lord said that they saw how He brought them out of Egypt “on eagles’ wings” and brought them to Himself—the eagles’ wings back then were poetic language for walking.

Final thought

As you consider the subject of escape by hiding, let me leave you with a verse that may someday be a wise course of action in our lifetime.

Amos 5:13—“Therefore the prudent keep silent at the time, for it is an evil time.”