

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 16, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:16

### Bible studies

**Interactive study—1:00 p.m.** . . . . . Mike Bailey

**Presentation study—2:00** . . . . . Reg Killingley  
(Also transmitted live)

### Order of service—3:00 p.m.

**Song leader** . . . . . Neil McIver

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

**Scripture reading** . . . . . Matthew 5:1–13

**Sermon** . . . . . Reg Killingley

### Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel schedule—Today, Dave Havir is giving two presentations in Huntsville.
2. Board meetings—There will be two board meetings to discuss the 2024 budget. The dates are the next two Sundays (Dec. 17 and Dec. 24), both at 4:00 p.m.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Dec. 20 at 7:00.
4. Save the date—The East Texas Barn Dance and Chili Supper is scheduled in Gladewater on Dec. 30 at 6:00 p.m.
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Yes, Anti-Zionism Is Anti-Semitism" by Dennis Prager.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "2 Corinthians 11:20—Part 3" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's edition has 204 headlines and six articles—including an article titled "Why Hamas Is Worse Than the Nazis" by historian Andrew Roberts. (Since Dave Havir recommends the article, he made a few extra copies of this week's "Eye on the World" for the congregation.)

## Prayer updates

**Lisa Smith** reports that **Gary Wilson** traveled to Metairie, La., for extended hyperbaric therapy. (Please also remember **Lisa**, who has combined managing things here and scheduling some time to travel over there.)

On Thursday night, **Timberly Dunnam** was dealing with significant pain due to the kidney stone. On Friday, she reported that the pain had eased up a little bit. She appreciates your prayers.

This is a reminder that **Clay** and **Mindy Forrestier** are scheduled for a consult with a surgeon on Dec. 18 concerning **Gavin** (10-year-son).

Please pray that **Angela Dunnam's** energy level continues to return.

Please pray that **Bea Gusner's** energy level continues to return.

**Dave McLearn** is recovering from his congestive heart problem and the procedure of having his heart shocked.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Joyce Coleman** and two daughters went to Iowa to visit her mother (**Donna Pfrimmer**), who was being moved to a nursing home with hospice care. Mrs. Coleman reported that her mother is not only having various health challenges. She is also having trouble adjusting to the facility.

## New prayer requests

We belatedly heard that **Becky Bonilla** had a pacemaker inserted on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

**Christina Maldonado** reports that her children have been getting sick (sore throat and stomach bug), and she requests your prayers.

**Dave Sproat** (who lives in Arizona) requests prayers. He wrote: "Based on the results of a CAT scan, my urologist says there is a strong possibility my left kidney is cancerous. He wants to do a biopsy to confirm after the holidays. It is a very unpleasant procedure. Please ask the congregation to pray that our merciful Father will cause my left kidney to not be cancerous and to begin normal functioning again. Thank you."

On Wednesday, **Marion Holcomb** of Alabama (brother of **Joanne Koeneke**) had surgery for an aorta aneurysm.

**Doreen Mounts** of Illinois died on Dec. 2. (While she was scheduled to have the tip of her pinky finger removed in a hospital in Paducah, Ky., various problems arose and she died in the hospital.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

**Alan Jones** of Hawkins died from a brain hemorrhage on Dec. 9. (The memorial service is scheduled for Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at Croley Funeral home in Hawkins.) Please remember his wife, **Cathy**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

**Anita Smith** of Whitehouse died on Dec. 12. (The memorial service is scheduled for Monday at 2:00 p.m. at Carmel Cemetery in Lindale.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

## Learning about the wealth in this world

Dave Havir shared how three recent events have taught him about some of the excessive wealth in this world.

“When Queen Elizabeth died, I learned about the number of monarchies around the world and learned a little about the amount of excessive wealth that they possess.

“When Russia invaded Ukraine, I learned about the number of oligarchs around the world and learned a little about the amount of excessive wealth that they possess.

“When Hamas attacked Israel, I learned about the number of rich Jewish citizens around the world and learned a little about the large amount of money that they have been donating to American universities.

“The amount of wealth in those three groups of people makes me think of a future event described in Revelation 18:15—“The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing.’”

## Thoughts for the week

“You put up with it if one brings you into bondage.”—*The Apostle Paul*

“You put up with it . . . if one devours you.”—*The Apostle Paul*

“You put up with it . . . if one takes from you [historically understood to include money and property].”—*The Apostle Paul*

## “2 Corinthians 11:20—Part 3”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website ([churchofgodbigsandy.com](http://churchofgodbigsandy.com)). It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 16, 2023.

### By Dave Havir

**B**IG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about 2 Corinthians 11:20. Since the apostle Paul mentioned five negative characteristics practiced by religious leaders and disciples, each study will discuss one of the ideas that he mentioned.

### Followers were more wrong

It is interesting to read the context leading up to 2 Corinthians 11:20.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15—The discussion is about false apostles who are described as deceitful workers.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:20-21—But, while Paul was describing the wrong behavior of the fake apostles, he was directly discussing the wrong behavior of the followers.

■ Shame on false religious teachers for promoting themselves and their erroneous ideas.

■ But shame on followers for accepting

the wrong behavior of the alleged religious leaders.

### Allowing people to take from you

Notice the third of the five characteristics mentioned in 2 Corinthians 11:20.

2 Corinthians 11:20 (New King James)—“For you put up with it . . . if one takes from you.”

2 Corinthians 11:20 (The Amplified New Testament)—“For you endure it . . . if a man deceives you and takes advantage of you.”

### Taking versus giving

The rest of this article will be about four concepts that show the contrast between taking versus giving.

Instead of following people who are preoccupied with money, we should be encouraging people to be effective givers.

### Do not follow greedy leaders

Notice a few verses about warning people to avoid following greedy leaders.

■ Romans 16:17-18—Avoid religious people who cause division and offense because they serve their “own belly”—allowing their emphasis upon money to affect their opportunity to serve.

■ 1 Timothy 6:3-5—Withdraw from religious people who think that religion is supposed to make them rich.

■ 1 Timothy 6:6-10—The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

I repeat—do not follow greedy leaders.

### Do not become a greedy leader

Notice a few verses about warning people to avoid becoming a greedy leader.

■ 2 Peter 2:1-3—The apostle Peter warned disciples about false teachers who exploited people because of their covetousness.

■ John 10:12-13—The Son of God warned disciples about hirelings who do not care about the sheep.

It is fair to ask: “What is a hireling?”

Merriam-Webster gives the following definition: “A person who serves for hire, especially for purely mercenary motives.”

Dictionary.com gives the following three definitions: “A person who works only for

pay, especially in a menial or boring job, with little or no concern for the value of the work”; “serving for pay only”; and “venal, mercenary.”

I repeat—do not become a greedy leader.

### Notice writings from Paul

■ Acts 20:33-35—Paul wasn’t serving for the money (or power).

■ 1 Timothy 5:18—Paul mentioned that a laborer is worthy of his wages.

It is interesting that Paul accepted money from some congregations, but not from other congregations.

■ 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12—Paul mentioned that, if a religious servant will not work, neither should he eat.

■ Acts 18:3—Paul earned some money as a tentmaker.

■ 1 Corinthians 4:12—Paul mentioned that he spent time working with his hands.

■ 1 Corinthians 9:1-18—Paul mentioned that he (as a religious servant to the congregation in Corinth) had the right to receive financial remuneration from it.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:7-9—Paul somewhat apologized to the congregation in Corinth for not taking money from it—when he took money from brethren in Macedonia.

■ 2 Corinthians 12:13-18—Paul apologized to the congregation in Corinth (“forgive me this wrong”) for not taking money from it.

■ Philippians 4:15-18—Paul mentioned: “When I departed Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.”

### Teaching people to give

■ Mark 12:42-43—Rich people are givers, but widows often give a higher percentage of their livelihood.

■ 1 Timothy 5:4-8—Families are instructed to take care of their widows—and widows need to be humbly cooperating with the guidance of their family.

■ Galatians 6:9-10—Disciples should do good unto all, especially to the household of faith.

■ 2 Corinthians 9:6-7—Disciples should not be giving grudgingly—because God loves a cheerful giver.