

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

March 1, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 6:16

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir
Presentation study—2:00 Dave Havir
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley
Pianist Recorded music
Scripture reading Luke 22:24–32
Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Dominoes tomorrow—If you are interested in playing dominoes tomorrow at 11:00 a.m., please let Sue Jones know.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—March 5 at 7:00.
3. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Christians Are Instructed to Pray for Secular Leaders" by Dave Havir.
4. Among Friends—This week's article is "Victory Over the Enemy—Part 2" by Dave Havir.
5. Eye on the World—282 headlines and one article.
6. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

- Mickey Ashcraft
- Judy Biggs
- Angela Dunnam
- Timberly Dunnam
- Ruth Roe

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

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Shirley Spearman** was scheduled for an MRI last Tuesday—but she didn't know if it was a closed MRI and she preferred an open MRI. Since it was scheduled to be a closed MRI, she asked to be rescheduled.

On Feb. 11, a doctor removed an infected breast cyst from **Paula Monsalvo**. On Feb. 25, her husband, **Bernie**, reported: "Paula saw the doctor. It was a benign cyst. No problems. Wound is healing nicely. Thank you for your prayers."

In the past, **Joe Flores** of Fort Worth gave the following report when he was having hernia surgery: "As many of you know, I have stage-5 chronic kidney disease, and I'm on peritoneal dialysis at home. I've recently developed a hernia and will have surgery for it on May 10. After the surgery, I will not be able to do dialysis at home and will have to go to a DaVita center for hemodialysis. In order to be able to do that, I need an HD catheter port put in. Thank you for your prayers. And please pray for a kidney as well." On Tuesday, he received a kidney transplant donated by his cousin. After the surgery, his wife, **Holly**, reported: "The surgery went perfectly well. No issues with either surgery (the cousin donor or Joe the receiver), and the kidney started working immediately. Of course, both Joe and his cousin were in a good bit of pain and needed pain meds. Hopefully, tomorrow will be better in that regard. Other than the pain, they are both doing fantastic." On Thursday, Mr. Flores reported: "I had a great night last night. The kidney report is that it is working wonderfully. My creatinine level is down to normal. They are trying to get me out of here on Friday or Saturday. Overall, I feel good and blessed. Thank you for continued prayers."

Anthony and **Pam Kimmons** of Brookhaven, Miss., are very appreciative of the prayers that people are saying on their behalf. They reported: "We are thankful daily for all of your prayers and expressions of support. The spiritual strength from God is maintaining us. Our prayers are that your talks with Him on our behalf are resulting in spiritual blessings for you and a closer walk with our Father and His Son."

New prayer requests

Linda Moers of a sister congregation in the Houston area reported: "I have had glaucoma since I was in my early 30s. It is an inherited condition from my mother's family. I have been treating it with eye drops for over 40 years. Recently, my pressures have been climbing to a dangerous level. I would appreciate prayers for God's intervention. Thank you."

On Sunday, **Lisa Smith** fractured the inner ulna bone in her right hand and wrist. The ulna is one of the two long bones in the forearm, located on the medial (inner) side. It extends from the elbow to the wrist and plays a crucial role in forearm movement.

On Monday, **Linda Cartwright** came down with a strong case of the flu. On Thursday, **Dixon** also showed signs of the flu, but his case didn't seem to be as strong as his wife's. They appreciate your prayers.

Synopsis of Feb. 23 board meeting

- Neil McIver gave an update concerning the board's previous discussion about the congregation contributing a yearly amount of funds to the Agape House as part of their "sponsorship" program.
- The board confirmed that Carol O'Brien would serve this year as the chairman of the Election Committee (that serves every May and June).
- David Havir III came from the Dallas area to give a presentation about various facets of the church website, the church streaming services and related topics.

Thought for the week

"Some things are believed because they are demonstrably true.
But many other things are believed simply because they
have been asserted repeatedly—and repetition has
been accepted as a substitute for evidence."

"Victory Over the Enemy—Part 2"

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 March 1, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a series by giving a presentation titled "Victory Over the Enemy—Part 2." (Much of this material was scheduled to be given in Part 1, but I ran out of time during that presentation.)

In this series, I have been planning to highlight two important concepts—do not underestimate the enemy and do not overestimate the enemy. Last Wednesday, we continued with the concept of not underestimating the enemy.

■ In the Feb. 19 Bible study, I focused on the overt danger of the enemy.

■ In the Feb. 26 Bible study, I focused on the subtle danger of the enemy.

The overt danger from the enemy is that he is extremely powerful. (But remember—the God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.)

The subtle danger from the enemy is that he is sneaky and conniving.

Master salesman

It is important to realize that the enemy is a master salesman.

■ Exodus 20:17—Much of his strategy is to stir up covetousness and lust.

■ Genesis 3:1—The cunning serpent asked a simple question—designed to lead into the direction of his negative plan.

■ Genesis 3:4—After the serpent heard Eve's response, he contradicted what God had said.

■ Genesis 3:5—After the serpent contradicted what God had said, he directly projected a negative motive coming from God—seeking to create obvious doubt.

■ Genesis 3:6—Did you notice the areas of desires (covetousness?) that motivated Eve?

Good for food. Pleasant to the eyes. Desirable to make one wise.

■ Genesis 9:21—What desires did the serpent stir up to influence Noah to sin?

■ Joshua 7:21—What desires did the

serpent stir up to influence Achan to sin?

■ 2 Samuel 11:2-24—What desires did the serpent stir up to influence David to sin?

Targeting the Son of God

The master salesman tried to trick the Son of God with three different tests.

■ Matthew 4:3—The devil tried to set the terms—offering food to a hungry man.

■ Matthew 4:6—The devil tried a second time to set the terms—challenging Him to prove the Father’s love for Him by jumping off the pinnacle of the temple.

■ Matthew 4:9—The devil tried a third time to set the terms—appealing to His love for mankind and to the alleged opportunity to speed up the plan of God.

Targeting perceived leaders

The master salesman seeks to trick perceived leaders, knowing that they can fool many people.

■ Matthew 23:4—The master salesman convinces leaders to be hard on people, while liking a double standard.

■ Matthew 23:7-10—The master salesman convinces leaders to accept titles, which creates a class system.

■ Matthew 23:11-12—The master salesman convinces leaders to behave with vanity instead of service.

■ Matthew 23:13—The master salesman convinces leaders to behave like the Kingdom of Heaven goes through them.

■ Matthew 23:15—The master salesman convinces leaders to seek proselytes unto themselves (instead of the Father and Son), who pass along their erroneous ideas to people.

■ Luke 22:24-27—When the disciples were battling to be the top dog (the greatest among them), the Son of God reminded them about servant leadership.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:13—Paul reminded disciples about religious leaders being deceitful workers projecting themselves as apostles of Christ.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:14—Paul reminded disciples about Satan projecting himself as an angel of light.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:15—Paul reminded

disciples about religious leaders projecting themselves as people of righteousness.

Feasting on followers

While the master salesman seeks to trick perceived leaders, he also feasts directly on followers.

In 2 Corinthians 11:20, the apostle Paul warned about five mistakes that many disciples were making.

■ The disciples “put up with” people taking them into bondage.

■ The disciples “put up with” people devouring them.

■ The disciples “put up with” people stealing from them.

■ The disciples “put up with” people exalting themselves over them.

■ The disciples “put up with” people hitting them in the face.

This verse needs quality evaluation by the children of God.

■ At some point, a disciple should evaluate how 2 Corinthians 11:20 squares with Isaiah 53:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:18-25.

■ But, until then, a disciple can see the connection between 2 Corinthians 11:20 and the Son of God’s physical behavior in John 2:14-16 and Matthew 21:12-13.

■ And, until then, a disciple can see the connection between 2 Corinthians 11:20 and the Son of God’s verbal confrontation in John 8:42-47.

The enemy seeks access

We just talked about some important warnings about the enemy. The enemy is powerful (overt danger), and the enemy is sneaky and conniving (subtle danger).

Notice that the devil asked the Son of God if he could sift Peter.

■ Luke 22:31—The Lord told Peter that Satan had specifically asked to have access to Peter with the goal of sifting him as wheat.

■ Luke 22:32—Notice that the Lord prayed for Peter.

The God of good is much stronger than the enemy who promotes evil.