

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 31, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:20

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 Neil McIver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Acts 1:14–36
Sermon Jimmy Whiteside

Quick takes

1. Day of Pentecost tomorrow—The congregation will observe the Day of Pentecost tomorrow (June 1). Following is the schedule.

■ 1:00 p.m.	Interactive Bible study
■ 2:00	Bible study—by Dave Havir
■ 3:00	Church service—sermon by Jim Bald

2. Please remember to pray for the following people who are not able to regularly attend our church service.

■ Mickey Ashcraft	■ Ronnie Shirley
■ Judy Biggs	■ Elaine Townsend
■ Angela Dunnam	■ Mickey Voyce
■ Timberly Dunnam	■ Donna Weese
■ Ruth Roe	■ Shirley West

3. Wednesday-night Bible study—June 4 at 7:00.

4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "What Worries Israel About Iranian Nuclear Deal?" by Yonah Jeremy Bob.

5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Second Commandment—Part 2" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

On Tuesday, **Linda Moers** went to her ear, nose and throat doctor. Here are excerpts of her report about her vocal cords: "I followed up with my ENT on Tuesday. He wanted to see me one more time before I see the specialist. He checked my cords again and nothing has changed. So the next step is the laryngologist on June 4. I give thanks each day for all of you and your prayers for my situation."

On Thursday, **Jon Swenson** (of Coatesville, Ind.) went to a doctor appointment. Here are excerpts from a report given by **Kayla Swenson**: "Jon had his follow-up today and they think the flap looks good—so they are going to go ahead with a skin-graft surgery on Saturday. He needs about four hours for that surgery from prep to going home. They are optimistic that a graft of his own skin will take at this point. Thank you for your prayers."

New prayer requests

Chris McDuffie of Hawkins has been diagnosed with cancer. (During the past year, his wife, **Shannon**, spent time on life support due to a brain infection. However, she is currently doing well and working.)

James Williams (son of Longview resident **Sherry Haley**) has pneumonia and is in an Oklahoma hospital.

Darlene Kovacs of Tyler died on May 26. Please remember her husband, **Robert**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Scriptures to consider

John 20:11-16—"But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.' Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?' She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, 'Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him, 'Rabboni!' (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'""

Luke 24:44—"Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.'"

Luke 24:45—"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures."

Luke 24:46-49—"Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.'"

Acts 1:4-5—"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"

Acts 1:6-8—"Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'"

Acts 2:1-2—"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting."

"Second Commandment—Part 2"

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 May 31, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled "Second Commandment—Part 2."

As I mentioned last week, the plan was for most of the Ten Commandments to have their own individual Bible study—but the topics of the First and Second Commandments both expanded into two parts.

Foundational scripture

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

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Second Commandment

■ Exodus 20:4-6—"You shall not make for yourself a carved image (any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth); You shall not bow

down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God [with God mentioning the consequences for those who hate Him and love Him].”

Reminder from Part 1

In Part 1, we talked about two main ideas.

■ God is a “jealous” God.

It is the worship of idols that provokes God to jealousy. His jealousy is His expected response. His jealousy is His righteous reaction.

■ No idols made with hands.

External idols

When we talked in the previous presentation about not having idols made with hands, we listed nine sections of scriptures about the subject.

In the most recent presentation, I read two other sections of Scripture to remind the audience how making idols with hands can be called “external idols.”

■ Leviticus 26:1—You shall not make idols, not a carved image, not a sacred pillar and not an engraved stone “to bow down to it.”

■ Psalm 115:4—Their idols are silver and gold—the “work of men’s hands.”

■ Psalm 115:5-7—Their idols have mouths, but cannot speak; have eyes, but cannot see; have ears, but cannot hear; have noses, but cannot smell; have hands, but cannot handle; and have feet, but cannot walk.

Many gods are external idols.

Internal idols

The main idea of the last presentation was to focus upon the internal idols. Internal idols are not objects made by hands. Internal idols are generally ideas and actions that are a foundation of idolatry.

In fact, the apostle Paul in the New Testament described the characteristic of covetousness as idolatry (Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5).

Lucifer coveted position and power

Do you remember Lucifer’s internal idolatry in Isaiah 14:12-14?

■ “I will ascend into heaven.”

■ “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.”

■ “I will sit on the mount of the congregation.”

■ “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”

■ “I will be like the Most High.”

Religious leaders coveting position and power

Do you remember the religious leaders when the Son of God came to be the Savior?

■ Matthew 23:3—Their words and actions did not match.

■ Matthew 23:4—They promoted tough expectations, but their lifestyle was a double standard.

■ Matthew 23:5—Their wearing of phylacteries was a show.

■ Matthew 23:6—They wanted the chief seats.

■ Matthew 23:7-10—They wanted fancy titles.

■ Matthew 23:11-12—They exalted themselves.

■ Matthew 23:13—They wanted to be doorkeepers to the Kingdom.

Serving the living God

Notice scriptures that show the correct approach.

■ 2 Corinthians 6:16—Paul taught that disciples should not be involved with idolatry, because they are to be the temple of the living God.

■ 1 Thessalonians 1:9—Paul complimented the disciples, because they turned from idols to serve the living and true God.

■ Matthew 20:25-28—When the Son of God categorized most professing leaders as lording it over people and as exercising authority over people, He told His disciples what He expected of them: “It shall not be so among you.”

■ 1 Corinthians 15:24—The Son of God will put an end to all rule, all authority and power—and then He will deliver the Kingdom to the Father.

■ 1 Corinthians 15:28—When all things are made subject to the Son of God, the Son of God will continue to be subject to the Father—that God may be all in all.