

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

April 17, 2010 • 2:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:48

Service next Sabbath: 2:00 p.m.

Order of service

Song leader	Clay Forrestier
Pianist	Dixon Cartwright
First sermon	Tony Stith
Teen class—Classroom #1 ..	Travis and Candace Self
Bridges class—Library	Carol Bald
Kids' class—Classroom #2	Mindy Forrestier
Interactive Bible study	Canceled
Second sermon	Tony Stith

Quick takes

1. Guest speaker today—The congregation welcomes Tony Stith of Minnesota, who is scheduled to give both sermons today.
2. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Neil McIver is giving a sermon in Anacoco, La., and Dave Havir is giving sermons at two congregations in Harrisburg, Pa. (Next week, Mr. Havir will spend a few days with his parents.)
3. Teen work party tomorrow—A teen work party is scheduled for tomorrow.
4. Campout on Burgin property—Ken and Sharon Burgin and Travis and Candace Self invite you to camp out on their property on Saturday evening, May 1. A handout is available on the Information Table.
5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "To Soften the Effects of Sin, Get Spiritual Armor All" by David Maas.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "The Ten Commandments Are Only the Beginning" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—This week's collection is by Jeanine Case.

Prayer updates

Nancy Sharp continues to deal with health challenges in the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview. She is in Room 1379.

As was mentioned orally last Sabbath, **Scott Allen** recently had a cataract removed from his right eye. He is scheduled to have a cataract removed from his left eye on Monday, April 26.

Melba Evers of Albertville, Ala. (mother of **Jeannie Roden**), continues to make progress. Her strength is coming back. On Wednesday, she went to the doctor, where she was scheduled to receive her last medication at this time. The doctor said that the bacteria have been killed. She is scheduled for a follow-up appointment with the doctor in a couple of weeks.

As was mentioned orally last Sabbath, **Ron Dart** fell on Thursday, April 8. Here is some more information. He went to the emergency room on that Thursday evening but was not admitted. On Friday, April 9, his speech became jumbled and he went to the ICU in the East Texas Medical Center in Tyler. It was learned that he had bleeding in his brain. Much happened through the week. **Larry Watkins** gave the following quote on Wednesday: "The doctor feels that if he [Ron] continues to improve, he may be able to leave ICU by the weekend of Monday."

New prayer requests

Ellen Edelbach fell on Wednesday and was taken to the Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview.

Sylvania Gully of Austin (mother of **Mark Gully**) had a stroke on Sunday evening.

Jane Shaffer, formerly of Big Sandy (sister of **Joe Kirkpatrick** of Portales, N.M.), has been diagnosed with several malignant brain tumors.

Bible study on April 7

On Wednesday, April 7, Bernie Monsalvo gave a Bible study titled "Jude 1–8."

Jude 5—But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Jude 6-7—And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Bible study on April 14

On Wednesday, April 14, Bernie Monsalvo gave a Bible study titled “Jude 8-15.”

Jude 9—Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

Jude 11—Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Jude 12—These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots.

“The Ten Commandments Are Only the Beginning”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for April 17–18, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—We as believers are thankful that we are saved by grace. In fact, we should reflect our appreciation by giving much thought and attention to recognizing God’s expectations for us.

A young man once asked Jesus Christ the following question: “What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” (Matthew 19:16).

Christ replied (in verse 17): “If you will enter into life, keep the commandments.”

Only five commandments?

The young man asked (in verse 18): “Which commandments?”

In verses 18-19, Christ listed five of the Ten Commandments.

■ Some people erroneously conclude that Jesus was endorsing only those specific five commandments.

■ Other people erroneously conclude that He was endorsing the last six only commandments, which are summarized by the admonition “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

But it is that phrase (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”) that helps believers accept all of the Ten Commandments. Why do I say that?

In Matthew 22:36-40 Jesus reiterated the

“great commandment in the law” by mentioning the expectation to love God completely and to love people earnestly.

When people seek to use the phrase (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself”) in Matthew 19:19 as an effort to eliminate some commandments, they are actually proving the value of the 10.

Personalized instruction

Back to the account in Matthew 19. Do you remember the young man’s response to Jesus’ listing of the commandments?

He said (in verse 20): “I have kept the commandments from my youth. What else should I do?”

Verse 21 showed Christ’s answer, and verse 22 revealed the young man’s response.

Christ mentioned the young man’s weakness to him. Jesus showed the young man specifically what he needed to address in his life.

The young man conscientiously lived by the Ten Commandments. Yet Christ gave him personal instruction to do more.

When you conscientiously live by the Ten Commandments, what personal instruction would Christ give to you to do more?

What would Jesus Christ say to you?

“When It’s All Over, Did You Make a Difference?”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbig sandy.com. It was posted for April 10–11, 2010.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—It is truly amazing! The divine Father uses physical people to further His will.

Let’s look at a couple of biblical examples to see how a few individuals can make a difference.

Negotiating with God

When God was ready to destroy Sodom (Genesis 18:23-33), Abraham had a discussion with God that revealed a great deal about the Creator. Abraham asked, “Will you also destroy the righteous with the wicked?”

Abraham could not understand God destroying the whole city. Certainly, he thought, there had to be 50 righteous people in the city.

As God continued to assure Abraham that He would not forsake the righteous, Abraham kept lowering the standard. Apparently he felt that there would be at least 10 righteous people. God responded that He would not destroy the city if there were 10 righteous people.

As we can see, God knew how many righteous people were there. God even knew *who* the righteous people were. Of course, God’s presence with the people is what classified them as righteous.

God loves righteousness! God is looking for people who will reflect the righteousness of Himself within them.

Searching for a person

God inspired the prophet Jeremiah to describe a search of “the broad places” to find a person with certain qualities (Jeremiah 5:1). “Seek . . . if there be any that executes judgment and that seeks the truth.” Signs of God’s righteousness can be difficult to find.

God inspired the prophet Ezekiel to describe searching for a person who would make a difference (Ezekiel 22:30). “I sought

for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land.” At that time, none was found.

Jesus Christ described Christians as the “salt” of the earth (Matthew 5:13). Christians can be a savoring, as well as a preserving, agent. Unfortunately, Christians can lose their savor.

Jesus Christ condemned the actions of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23). Their religion included much religious form without much spiritual substance.

Their religion was based in large part upon religious titles, pecking orders and outward appearance. Christ didn’t look at things the way many people did. Christ could see straight through their religious hypocrisy.

Examples of service

Can you think of some names of people in the Bible who made a difference? Who are some people who followed the wonderful example of our Savior?

Wasn’t God’s righteousness in the deacon Stephen a great example?

Didn’t God use Priscilla and Aquila as a good model of a serving couple?

How much serving did God inspire through Phoebe?

How much serving did God inspire through the house of Stephanas?

Have you ever heard of Onesiphorus? You might be interested in discovering how God used him.

If you have God’s Spirit, you are a part of the Church of God. God will use that Spirit to resurrect you when Christ returns (Romans 8:11).

If you have God’s Spirit, God has a purpose for you. God is displaying His righteousness through you. Thank God for the opportunity to glorify His name! Thank God for the opportunity to make a difference!