

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Nov. 8, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:25

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 Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Psalm 18:1–19

Sermon Wynn Skelton

Quick takes

1. Thank you—Here is a thank-you message from Stan West and his family: “The West family wants to express our appreciation and gratitude to the congregation and the volunteers who served to make Mom’s memorial such a successful and joyful event. Thank you for preparing the hall with flowers and family items. Thank you for showing the family video. And thank you for preparing and serving the delicious food. We will always cherish the experience.”
2. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Nov. 12 at 7:00.
4. Community Thanksgiving Gathering—Our congregation has the privilege of hosting the 2025 Community Thanksgiving Gathering in our building. (Our congregation became active in this annual event in 2017. Our congregation had the privilege of previously hosting the event in 2019—and now again in 2025.)
 - Date—Sunday, Nov. 23
 - Time—4:30 p.m.
 - Location—in our building

5. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Nuclear Weapons in the World" by Dave Havir.
6. Among Friends—This week's article is "Obey to Be Blessed Now—Part 2" by Dave Havir.
7. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

Following is an update from **Sandra Sharp** about **Hunter Sharp** (24-year-old grandson, who was in a serious motorcycle accident): "We absolutely want to express our gratitude and thanks for all the prayers going up for Hunter. He is making great progress, and we thank you so much. God bless you."

This week, **Gary Wilson** was able to receive his new wheelchair. It is believed that this should make it easier for him to get into and out of his car.

Debra Acosta reported that, although she has been tired, she has been able to work. She has a doctor's appointment next Tuesday to discuss some test results.

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Dave McLearen** went by ambulance with pain in his leg, minor chest pains and a slight fever. A surgeon informed him that his leg was not a bone problem but rather was diagnosed as gout. (His uric acid was testing at 9.9, instead of the number 3 and lower.) On Wednesday, he returned home.

Nancy Diraison requests prayers as she is dealing with respiratory challenges.

During the week, **Dave Havir** bumped into **Don Ward** (of a local congregation) in Tyler and asked about **Wanda's** recent fall. Please keep Mrs. Ward in your prayers.

Joyce Canepa of Flagstaff, Ariz., reports that she has been dealing with a rash for over five months. She reported: "Now, I've got blisters on my arms and back."

Last Saturday at church, **Shirley Spearman** informed **Dave Havir** about her discovering the source of her back pain. On the previous Thursday (Oct. 30), she had an X-ray and was diagnosed with a degenerative disc in her back (lower lumbar).

On Thursday, **Faye Echavarria** of Tyler (aunt of **Shirley Spearman**) had surgery to deal with colon cancer. (In past years, we prayed for her when she was living in the Dallas area.)

Alvis Copeland of Marshall (uncle of **Shirley Spearman**) died on Nov. 2. Please remember his wife, **Sadie**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Arcemio Morales** from Guatemala was hospitalized in an emergency situation, and his condition was very delicate. Since then, we learned of his death. Please keep his family in your prayers.

“Obey to Be Blessed Now—Part 2”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigsandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 8, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series that I began two weeks earlier. The title was “Obey to Be Blessed Now—Part 2.” This series is related to a presentation that I gave on Saturday, Oct. 18. In that presentation, I presented three reasons why we obey God.

- To be Blessed Now
- To be Blessed at the Resurrection
- To Glorify and to Honor the Father and the Son

The scriptures selected for Part 1 were chosen from the Pentateuch. The scriptures for Part 2 were chosen from scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments.

Old Testament

■ Psalm 1:1—Blessed is the person who avoids the counsel of the ungodly, the path of sinners and the seat of the scornful.

■ Psalm 1:2—Blessed is the person who delights in the law of the Lord and who meditates on His law day and night.

■ Psalm 18:1-2—Here are reasons why we obey the Lord now.

- He is our rock.
- He is our fortress.
- He is our deliverer.
- He is our strength in whom we trust.
- He is our shield.
- He is the horn of our salvation.
- He is our stronghold.

■ Psalm 18:3—When we call upon the Lord, He saves us from our enemies.

■ Psalm 18:4-6—When trouble surrounds us, we cry out to the Lord.

■ Psalm 18:46-48—The Lord lives. He avenges, subdues and delivers.

■ Psalm 37:1-7—Instead of fretting over evildoers, we should trust in the Lord for deliverance.

■ Malachi 3:10—The Lord reminded the people to prove God’s promise about blessing those who tithe to Him.

New Testament

It is amazing how many verses in the New Testament discuss how obedience leads to future blessings—in the resurrection and in the Kingdom of God.

But now was the time to mention New Testament verses showing how obedience leads to blessings in this life.

■ Mark 10:29-30—The Son of God mentioned receiving a hundredfold now in this time—more fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children and lands.

■ Matthew 6:25-33—The Son of God reminded His disciples how our Heavenly Father provides for our needs.

■ Matthew 7:7-11—The Son of God reminded His disciples to ask, seek and find the gifts that God offers to His children.

■ Matthew 10:34-39—In this section of verses, the Son of God did remind His disciples that there would be times when they faced a serious lack of peace—but it is during those difficult times when our Father helps us through those experiences.

■ Matthew 11:27-30—The Son of God reminded His disciples that He and the Father would give rest and peace to disciples.

■ Luke 22:31-32—The Son of God warned Peter that Satan would seek to sift him, but He would pray for him (Peter).

■ Romans 5:1—Paul reminded his friends that they can have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

■ Romans 5:2—Paul reminded his friends that they could have faith and hope.

■ Romans 5:3-5—Paul reminded his friends how God will help them in times of tribulation.

■ 2 Corinthians 4:16-18—Paul reminded his friends how God will help them through the challenges that they face.

■ Philippians 4:11-13—Paul reminded his friends how they will have good and bad experiences. And we should follow Paul’s example: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

“Nuclear Weapons in the World”

This article is from the “Edifying the Body” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbig sandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 8, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Someone could ask me: “Dave, Why did you compose an article titled ‘Nuclear Weapons in the World’ as a part of Edifying the Body?” Some could explain their point of view in this manner: “Edifying the Body should be positive articles, not serious and depressing information.”

Oh, I understand the value of dwelling upon positive information.

■ Philippians 4:8—“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

But I also understand the steps leading up to dwelling upon positive. I am a firm believer in “recognizing negative first and then dwelling on the positive.”

Wrong order

There is an example in the Old Testament where the people got the order backwards—they recognized the positive and then dwelt on the negative.

■ Numbers 13:1-16—The Lord instructed Moses to choose qualified men to spy out the land of Canaan.

In verses 17-20, Moses instructed them to see what the land was like.

■ Were the people strong or weak?
 ■ Were the people few or many?
 ■ Was the land good or bad?
 ■ Were the cities like playgrounds or heavily fortified strongholds?

■ Was the land rich or poor?
 ■ Did the land have forests or open fields?
 ■ Numbers 13:26—The spies “brought back word to them” and showed them the wonderful fruit of the land.

■ Numbers 13:27—The spies told many wonderful observations.

■ Numbers 13:28-29—Then the spies told of some serious challenges.

■ Numbers 13:30—Caleb saw the mis-

take and sought to encourage the people to follow God’s promises.

■ Numbers 13:31-33—But the negativity could not be thwarted.

■ Numbers 14:6-9—Joshua and Caleb tried to help the people to avoid fear of the negative and to believe the Lord.

Serious danger

What does that historical account have to do with current nuclear weapons?

Recognize the negative, and then dwell on the positive.

■ Matthew 24:22—“And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, those days will be shortened.”

Let’s recognize some serious danger.

According to icanw.org, here is the listing of nine nations that have warheads.

1. Russia—5,449
2. United States—5,277
3. China—600
4. France—290
5. United Kingdom—225
6. Pakistan—180
7. India—170
8. Israel—90
9. North Korea—50

According to icanw.org, here are six nations hosting nuclear weapons.

1. Turkiye—hosting 35 of U.S. weapons
2. Italy—hosting 20 of U.S. weapons
3. Belgium—hosting 15 of U.S. weapons
4. Germany—hosting 15 of U.S. weapons
5. Netherlands—hosting 15 of U.S. weapons
6. Belarus—hosting an unknown number of Russian weapons

Wise reactions

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-10
- 1 Timothy 2:1-6
- Revelation 14:12-13

Recognize the danger of nuclear weapons in our world. And then enjoy your Bible study as you focus upon God’s truth, His promises and His immense love.