

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

May 16, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:14

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Mark Weiss

Presentation study—2:00 Bill Crow
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Mark Weiss

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Joshua 2:1–16

Sermon Bill Crow

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today, Dave Havir is giving two presentations in Huntsville, Texas.
2. Day of Pentecost—The congregation will be observing the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 24, with our regular church schedule.
 - 1:00—Interactive Bible study, by Daniel Hammons
 - 2:00—Presentation Bible study, by Dave Havir
 - 3:00—Church service—with Reg Killingley giving the sermon
3. Annual board-nomination process—The nomination portion of the process occurs for four weeks in May, and the election occurs in June.
4. Baccalaureate outing tomorrow—Our congregation is again participating in the outing at the Big Sandy Convention Center at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow.
5. Dominoes tomorrow—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
6. Wednesday-night Bible study—May 20 at 7:00.
7. Edifying the Body—"195 Articles About Anger" by Dave Havir.
8. Among Friends—"1 Thessalonians 5:1–28" by Dave Havir.
9. Eye on the World—The project was not complete at the bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

On Friday, **Gary Wilson** was able to return to a rehab facility. He had talked to **Dave Havir** about his goal of getting involved in a 90-day program. This present plan may be for only 12 days. Please pray for Mr. Wilson to have a successful rehab stint.

In recent bulletins, we mentioned that **Brenda Marks** had her nerves “burned” on Wednesday, April 29, and was scheduled to have her nerves burned again on Wednesday, May 13. She reports that the procedure last Wednesday went well and that she is feeling better

Here is a brief update about **Hunter Sharp** (who has been recovering after surviving a serious motorcycle accident in October 2025). His family says he is doing well. He is gaining weight and developing muscle.

The following prayer request for **April Sharp** (which involves three situations) includes an update and two new requests. First, on April 17 she had a mammogram revealing a lump and a spot on her breast—which is not causing her difficulty at this time. Second, a doctor recently discovered multiple cysts on her thyroid. Third, a doctor found a cyst in her nostril on Wednesday, and he is considering how to deal with it.

New prayer requests

On Friday morning, **Sheila Alexander** reported: “Mom [**Linda Avey**] was taken to the ER on Wednesday evening. She had been sick for several days. The doctors suspect an infection and are running multiple tests. They have recommended taking her gallbladder out. Surgery will be sometime this afternoon.” On Friday afternoon, Mrs. Alexander reported: “They have canceled Mom’s surgery this afternoon. They have talked about doing a paracentesis [removing fluid buildup in the abdomen] after dialysis today.”

Dwayne Gallia has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. On Wednesday, his wife, **Linda**, reported: “Today, he is having a special PET scan to determine if it is spreading so they can determine the best course of treatment.” On Friday, they reported that they hadn’t received the results of the PET scan yet.

On Friday, May 8, a lady named **Diane** (who is a friend of **Joyce Canepa** in Flagstaff, Ariz.) was diagnosed with brain cancer. She had surgery in Phoenix on May 12. Mrs. Canepa reported: “Diane did well in the surgery. They got 70 percent of it and will be doing treatment for the rest of it. She should be able to come home next Tuesday and have the rest of her care up here in Flagstaff.”

On Wednesday, **Shane Buck** (son of **Bonita Miller** in North Carolina) had shoulder surgery. There was more damage than anticipated, but the shoulder was repaired.

On Monday, **Mark McGarvey** of Tulsa, Okla. (who is recovering well from back surgery), had outpatient surgery on his knee.

Steve Swiger of Knoxville, Tenn., learned that he has a 4-centimeter-long aneurysm on his aorta.

Doug Strub of Big Sandy went to an ER in Tyler with blood-pressure issues. He is much better now, but he is being monitored.

Bill Nelson of Tyler died on April 7, 2026. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Randy Stiver of Brookings, S.D., died on May 10. Please remember his wife, **Linda**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Joy Garbs (mother of **Leslie Harroff**) died on May 14. Please remember her husband, **Charles**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

“1 Thessalonians 5:1–28”

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 16, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. The title of the presentation was “1 Thessalonians 5:1-28.

Future resurrection

Let’s take a brief glimpse at chapter 4.

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:13—Although death brings understandable sorrow, we should not sorrow as others who have no hope.

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:14—If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:15—Those who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who are asleep (have died).

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:16—The Lord will descend from heaven with the trumpet, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:17—Then those who are alive will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

■ 1 Thessalonians 4:18—“Comfort one another with these words.”

Thief in the night

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:1—Paul continued to talk about the “the times and the seasons.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:2—Paul mentioned that

the day of the Lord would come to many people like a thief in the night.

■ 2 Peter 3:10—Peter talked about the day of the Lord coming like a thief in the night.

■ Matthew 24:36-43—More importantly, the Son of God Himself talked about His return being like the coming of a thief in the night.

■ Revelation 3:3—The Son of God reminded members of the congregation at Sardis that they would not know what hour He would come unto them.

■ Revelation 16:15—The Son of God reminded people that His coming as a thief in the night should encourage them to watch and to have the proper garments.

Children of the light

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:3—Although many preachers give messages about “peace and safety,” sudden destruction will come upon people like labor pains upon a pregnant woman.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:4—Brethren should not be in darkness or be surprised.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:5—Brethren are children of the day and not of the night.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:6-7—Brethren should be watching and staying sober instead of sleeping and getting drunk.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:8—Notice how faith, hope and love are mentioned.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11—Salvation is available through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us that we should live together with Him—which are extremely comforting words.

Recognize the tyrants

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13—Paul wrote: “We urge you to recognize those who labor among you (and are over you in the Lord) and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.”

■ Matthew 20:25-28—Recognize the difference between those who imitate the rulers who “lord it over” people and who “exercise authority over” people and those who serve like Christ did.

■ Matthew 23:2-15—Recognize the wrong approach that Christ mentioned about many religious tyrants.

■ 2 Corinthians 11:20—Recognize the five specific mistakes that Paul mentioned about many religious tyrants.

Goals of servants

Notice the four goals mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:14.

- Warn those who are unruly.
- Comfort the fainthearted.
- Uphold the weak.
- Be patient with all.

Practical advice

Notice the following practical advice.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:15—Do not render evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good (both for yourselves and for all).

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:16—Rejoice always.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:17—Pray without ceasing.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:18—Give thanks in everything (since this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you).

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:19—Do not quench the Spirit.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:20—Do not despise prophecies.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:21—Test all things and hold fast to that which is good.

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:22—Abstain from every form of evil.

Back to verse 21

Let’s go back to verse 21 for a few minutes. In fact, let’s see how verse 21 may

shine a new light upon the disciple that people like to call “Doubting Thomas.”

■ It is my belief that Thomas gets a bad rap.

■ It is my belief that Christ is not criticizing Thomas as many clergymen like to do.

■ John 20:24—Thomas was not with the other disciples when the Son of God came to them.

(I don’t know why Thomas missed being with the other disciples when they saw the Lord. Thomas could be complimented for what he was doing. Helping widows would be worthy of compliments. Murdering someone would be worthy of criticism.)

I don’t see Christ criticizing Thomas for Thomas’s request.

Thomas said he would not believe unless he saw the following things (listed in John 20:25).

■ Unless Thomas saw the print of the nails in Christ’s hand.

■ Unless Thomas could put his finger into the print of the nails.

■ Unless Thomas could put his hand into Christ’s side.

■ John 20:27—What was Christ’s answer: “Reach your finger here and look at My hands. And reach your hand here and put it in to My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

■ John 20:29—It is true that Christ said: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

■ But Christ invited Thomas to check out His hands and His side.

■ Test all things and hold fast to that which is good.

Final words

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:23—“May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely. May your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:24—“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:25—“Pray for us.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:26—“Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:27—“Read the epistle to all the holy brethren.”

■ 1 Thessalonians 5:28—“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”