

- Rejected by men
- Chosen by God
- Precious

I will use the same three statements referring to Christ and apply them to believers—but I will change the order.

Chosen by God

■ John 6:44—No one can come to Christ unless the Father (who sent Christ) draws him.”

■ John 12:47-48—Those who do not understand specific information are not being judged about that information—but those who reject Christ after understanding that information will be judged.

■ 2 Timothy 2:19—Here are two concepts that are part of the solid foundation: “The Lord knows those who are His” and “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

■ Matthew 7:21-23—Not everyone who claims to know the Lord shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

■ Many will argue: “Have we not prophesied in Your name?”

■ Many will argue: “Have we not cast out demons in Your name?”

■ Many will argue: “Have we not done many wonders in Your name?”

■ Christ’s response will shock many: “I never knew you. Depart from Me.”

Let me repeat that—Some people who think they have a relationship with Christ will hear Him say: “I never knew you.” Yikes! That is amazing.

In a recent presentation, I mentioned that there are 8.3 billion people on the earth and 2.4 billion people on the earth who claim to be a part of the Christian religion.

Will all those people (whom Christ said He doesn’t know) be lost?

No, but many people who claim Christ in their ignorance will miss the first resurrection and will be a part of a later resurrection. (See 1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; Revelation 20:6; and Revelation 20:11-12.)

Rejected by people

■ John 7:7—Early in Christ’s ministry, He said: “The world cannot hate you, but it hates

Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.”

■ John 16:1-2—Later in Christ’s ministry, He said: “The time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God a service.”

■ Acts 17:5—In Thessalonica, evil men gathered a mob and caused an uproar against Paul.

■ Acts 17:10—The brethren in Thessalonica immediately sent Paul and Barnabas away by night to Berea.

■ Acts 17:13-14—When some brethren from Thessalonica went to Berea to stir up the crowds against Paul, the brethren sent Paul by sea toward Athens.

You are precious

■ John 17:1—“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may also glorify You.”

■ John 17:6—“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours. You gave them to Me, and I have kept Your word.”

■ John 17:8—“For I have given to the them the words which You have given Me. They have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You. They have believed that You sent Me.”

■ John 17:9—“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given Me—for they are Yours.”

■ John 17:11—“I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world . . . Keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.”

■ John 17:12—“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept, and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”

■ John 17:14—“I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

■ John 17:15-17—“I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.”

■ John 17:20—“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 22, 2026 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 7:59

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. David Smith

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 John 17

Sermon Mark Weiss

Quick takes

1. Dominoes—Interested participants should contact Sue Jones.
2. Wednesday-night Bible study—Aug. 26 at 7:00.
 - Last week was “1 Peter 2:4-5—Part 2”
“You Are to Be a Living Stone”
 - Next week is “1 Peter 2:4-5—Part 3”
“You Are Being Built Up As a Spiritual House”
3. Feast of Trumpets—Saturday, Sept. 12.
4. Day of Atonement—Monday, Sept. 21.
5. Feast of Tabernacles—Saturday, Sept. 26, through Saturday, Oct. 3. Our congregation will be hosting Feast of Tabernacle celebrations at two sites—Big Sandy, Texas, and Destin, Fla. (In addition, friends in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., have asked Dave Havir to establish the speaking schedule for that Feast site.)
6. Edifying the Body—“Faithful Obedience” by Max Lucado.
7. Among Friends—“1 Peter 2:4-5—Part 2” by Dave Havir
8. Eye on the World—Compiled by Dave Havir.

Prayer updates

Following is an update for the **Kemp** family. “**Robert Kemp** is officially out of the hospital and back in Dallas with his older brother **Ryan Jr.** He is beginning to resume work and adjust to his new normal. We’ll be taking him back to the hospital this weekend to have the 17 staples removed from his leg and to have his burns checked. **Jayne** has had a bit of a setback. Some areas of her skin became infected—requiring surgery on Monday to clean everything up. She is currently scheduled for another skin-grafting surgery next Wednesday. We are hopeful that this will be her final surgery and that she can continue focusing on healing and getting stronger from here. Despite everything, Jayne is in good spirits and continues to fight.”

On Sunday, **Mike Bailey** began rehab. **Rocio** reported: “It has been hard for him. We thank you for honoring our request for no visitors at this time. Your thoughtfulness helps him to give his full attention to the rehab. And it is a very encouraging reality to know that you are praying for us. We thank you.”

On Thursday, **Jerry Thompson** (who had triple-bypass surgery on June 23) had a follow-up visit. He heard that his scar was looking good—but his blood-pressure number and his diabetes number were a little high.

It has been a while since we gave an update about **Dave McLearen’s** back pain. He reports that, by putting ice on his back in the morning, it is feeling pretty good in the afternoon. (It was good to see him at family dominoes last Sunday.) On Monday, he is scheduled to have his back checked at a doctor appointment.

In last week’s bulletin, we mentioned that **Lisa Smith** was awaiting an MRI this week. As it turns out, she went yesterday for an X-ray of her hip and lower back. The MRI is scheduled for next Wednesday.

On Thursday, **Linda Gallia** gave the following update about **Dwayne**: “The surgeon removed Dwayne’s catheter and abdominal drain. He mentioned that everything looks good so far. After things heal in a couple of months, they will check the PSA level. If it is zero, no other treatment will be necessary. Please pray for zero PSA.”

In the Aug. 1 bulletin, we mentioned that **Vern Hildreth** had “a blood clot in his right arm. He went for a CAT scan of his chest to make sure there are no blood clots there.” His daughter, **Veronica Beasley**, gave a short update: “My dad is doing a lot better. He can’t drive right now, but we are helping him to get out and about.”

New prayer requests

Last Friday night (Aug. 14), **Veronica Beasley** and some of her family experienced her car blowing up. (She texted **Dave Havir** about it at 12:11 a.m. on Saturday morning asking for his prayers.) Here is a brief description of what occurred: “My car blew up on me with **Domonique** and her three boys. We got all the boys out safe and sound before it blew up. My cousin **Kendrick Willingham** was airlifted to Dallas, because his face was burned. He had second-degree burns, but he was home on the next day.”

Vonda Ouellette from Houston (mother of **Theresa McLearen** and **Jerry Thompson**) requests prayers for her eyes. They have been bothering her, and she is scheduled for more shots on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, **Gloria Sexton** of Chiang Mai, Thailand, was admitted to a hospital for hemoptysis (or coughing blood). Initial results revealed an infection in her respiratory system

Carol O’Brien requests prayers for her friend **Bonne** who is recovering from a severe eye infection. Following are excerpts from her friend: “My right eye is scarring. The scratch is right through the middle of my eye. That is why I’ve regressed and can’t see colors or shapes anymore, but just light. If my eye is healed good at next week’s appointment, I will start on steroid drops. If it still isn’t healed (but no infection), I will need an amniotic membrane applied to the eye. If all else fails, I may need surgery to sew the eyelids together halfway—leaving an opening to insert eye drops and gel. Once healed, they would have to cut the eyelids apart. I’m still in a lot of pain and constant headache. (The doctor said that is from the eye drops.) The doctor said this is going to be a marathon—a very long, slow marathon. It could be another two months before I can see again.”

Diane Koehn of Flagstaff, Ariz., died on Aug. 16. (In three consecutive bulletins in May, we mentioned that Mrs. Koehn was battling brain cancer.) Please remember the family in your prayers.

Joey Baril (grandson of **Kate Vincent**) died on Aug. 19. We heard a report that Mr. Baril was reportedly hit by a car in San Jose, Calif., while traveling to visit family. (Mrs. Vincent and grandson **Elijah** attended our congregation before Mr. Baril also began attending. Before Mr. Baril moved, he was baptized.) Mrs. Vincent currently lives in Duvall, Wash. Please remember the family in your prayers.

“1 Peter 2:4–5—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 Aug. 22, 2026.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a five-part series about 1 Peter 2:4-5 before the Day of Trumpets. From time to time through the years, I had spoken about 1 Peter 2:4-5 by mainly concentrating upon three concepts mentioned there. (Those three concepts will be covered in this series as Parts 3, 4 and 5. But Parts 1 and 2 include additional information added to this series.)

■ Part 1—“Christ was chosen by God to be a living stone.”

■ Part 2—“You are to be a living stone.”

■ Part 3—“You are being built up as a spiritual house.”

■ Part 4—“You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”

■ Part 5—“You are to offer spiritual sacrifices—acceptable to God.”

You are a living stone

This article will focus upon Part 2—“You are to be a living stone.”

■ 1 Peter 2:5—“You also [are chosen] as living stones.”

Notice that 1 Peter 2:4 mentioned three ways that Christ was described as a living stone.