

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Dec. 12, 2020 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 5:14

Bible study and classes

Interactive study (1:00) Jim Bald
Bible study (2:00) Neil Mclver

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil Mclver
Pianist Dixon Cartwright
Scripture reading Psalm 118:1–29
Sermon Ron Avey

Quick takes

1. Interrelating with other congregations—Today, Dave Havar is giving a Bible study and a sermon in Birmingham, Ala.
2. Upcoming guest speakers—Dave Havar is pleased to announce that several guest speakers are planning to join us over the coming weeks. Following is the revised schedule.
 - Dec. 19 Bill Crow
 - Dec. 26 Blake Silverstein
3. Upcoming winter activities—Some of our sister congregations are organizing winter activities in Texas.
 - Common Faith Network (CFN) is hosting at the Tanglewood Resort in Pottsboro—Dec. 23–26.
 - A sister congregation near Waco is hosting a campout (for personal RVs or on-site cabins) at Leisure Resort in Fentress—Dec. 24–26.
4. Pastor's schedule at the two Winter Weekends—Dave Havar has accepted invitations to serve at both Winter Weekends.
 - Thursday at Tanglewood—Give two seminars.
 - Saturday at Fentress—Speak at a church service.

5. Prayers for peaceful protesters—Please pray for the citizens who are maturely and responsibly exercising their right of peaceful protest.
6. Prayers for victims—Please pray for the citizens who are suffering from the criminals, mobs and thugs who are tormenting our country.
7. Reminders for attending—Here are some reminders for people who choose to attend the church service in the building.
 - We do not provide masks or gloves. If these are important to you, please bring your own.
 - We expect attendees to make good use of our spacious hall by spreading out.
8. Edifying the Body—This week’s article is “Explaining the Three-Fifths Language in the Constitution” by Walter Williams.
9. Among Friends—This week’s article is “Amos 5:21” by Dave Havir.
10. Eye on the World—This week’s “Eye on the World” is 22 pages.

Prayer updates

Please remember to pray for the following people who live at home but are not able to regularly attend our church service—**Sonny Rosenberger, Laura Moran, Annette Payne, Ronnie Shirley** and **Timberly Dunnam**.

Please remember to pray for the following people who are rehabbing at Legend Oaks Nursing Home in Gladewater—**Ron Feaker** and **Elaine Holloway**.

Eli Benedict reports that he did not have as much itching of his skin and was able to have several good nights of sleep. He is scheduled for an eye doctor’s appointment next Friday. He and **Jean** thank you for your ongoing prayers.

Annette Payne is recovering from her recent fall. On Tuesday, she was placed on (long-term) hospice care.

Laura Moran is hoping that a dietitian can help her regain the weight that she recently lost due to an infection in her mouth from faulty dentures.

Paula Monsalvo of Mobile, Ala. (who was diagnosed with flesh-eating bacteria in October), has been recovering nicely. When the doctor dealt with the bacteria, there was a wound that needed to heal. **Bernie** wrote: “She has almost recovered as the wound was closing from the inside out. She has recovered much of her strength and is able to resume her daily activities.”

In last week’s bulletin, we requested prayers for **Jerry Jones** of Ojai, Calif. (who with his wife, **Bobbi**, was part of our extended congregation and regularly attended our Western Feast sites), because he was facing imminent death. As it turned out, he died about 7:45 that evening (on Dec. 5). Please remember Mrs. Jones and the rest of the family in your prayers.

New prayer requests

Ruth Roe requests prayers for her son **Tim Roe** of Ore City. He has been dealing with a bone disease and with pain in his joints (including knees and shoulder) and his back. The Mrs. Roe reports that his pain has been getting worse.

Neil McIver has recently been dealing with low blood pressure and needed to have his medications adjusted.

Kim Beevers of Louisiana (friend of **Lisa Smith**) is dealing with a heart condition.

Wayne Cole of Oregon has been having dialysis three times a week.

Ruth Gutierrez of Big Sandy has been diagnosed with diverticulitis.

John Moskel of Cayce, S.C., died on Nov. 3. Please remember his wife, **Rhonda**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Beth Holm of Sedona, Ariz., died on Nov. 20. Please remember her husband, **Rand**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Dorothy Page of Brownwood (aunt of **Pam Havir**) died on Dec. 6. Please remember her husband, **Weldon**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Diane Bailey of Cincinnati, Ohio, died, on Dec. 8. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Resurrection of the Son

Acts 2:24—“Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

Acts 2:32—“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”

Acts 3:15—“And killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.”

Acts 3:26—“To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”

Acts 5:30—“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.”

Acts 10:40—“Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly.”

Acts 13:30—“But God raised Him from the dead.”

Acts 17:31—“Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Romans 4:24—“But also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.”

Romans 5:9-10—“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

“Amos 5:21”

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 Dec. 12, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—On Nov. 14, I began a series of articles about the book of Amos. The first article was titled “Overview of the Book of Amos.”

Since that time, I chose to write about various verses from the book of Amos. This article will discuss Amos 5:21.

Reason for choosing

Someone could ask: Why did you choose to write about Amos 5:21?

My answer: I wanted to address some wrong conclusions that people develop from this verse.

Let’s see what Amos 5:21 says.

Amos 5:21—“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies.”

Erroneous conclusions

Notice two erroneous conclusions.

■ Some religious people say that Amos 5:21 shows God denouncing popular holidays created by mankind.

■ Other religious people say that Amos 5:21 shows God desires for people to quit observing His feast days.

■ First, I believe that God was talking about His feast days.

■ Second, I believe that God was focusing upon their behavior—sometimes even at His feast days.

His feast days

Let’s look at some verses that influence me to believe that God was talking about His feast days (including the Sabbath).

Amos 5:21-23—“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.”

Isaiah 1:11-14—“To what purpose is the

multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” says the LORD. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats. When you come to appear before Me, who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts? Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.”

Their behavior

■ I believe that God was saying that their observing His feast days (including the Sabbath) was not enough to excuse some of their other behavior.

■ What was the behavior of the people that displeased God?

In the book of Amos, God mentioned two general characteristics (justice and righteousness) that He wanted to see.

Amos 5:24—“But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

In the book of Isaiah, God mentioned a specific behavior of the people that displeased Him.

Isaiah 1:15—“When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.”

Important lesson

Did you notice that last sentence in Isaiah 1:15? God wasn’t happy with their Sabbath worship because their hands were full of blood.

He said that their keeping the Fourth Commandment was not enough to please Him. Why? They were violating the Sixth Commandment.

Keeping the Fourth Commandment did not excuse people when they broke the other nine Commandments. God loves all His Commandments.