

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

July 26, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:21

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Daniel Hammons

Presentation study—2:00 Daniel Hammons
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Reg Killingley

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Job 1:8–12; Job 2:3–6

Sermon Neil McIver

Quick takes

1. Pastor's travel—Today at noon, Dave Havar is giving a presentation at the "Covenant Assembly, East Texas" in Bullard. (At 3:00, he is attending the wedding of Melodee Searls and Anthony Kimmons in Tyler.)
2. Dominoes—Tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—July 30 at 7:00.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Legacy Media in Panic Mode Over Russiagate's Implosion" by Robert McGreevy.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Ninth Commandment—Part 1" by Dave Havar.
6. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

Thought for the week

"If a witness testifies falsely against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother."—*The patriarch Moses*

Prayer updates

The following information is sent by **Eric** and **Kelly Gully** about Kelly's parents. This information concerning **Mary Kissel** (diagnosed with aggressive bone cancer of the spine) and her husband, **Dave Kissel** (diagnosed with moderate dementia), will be viewed as a prayer update for people who received a prayer request on **Dave Havir's** text list on June 5. (We realize that people not on Mr. Havir's text list will consider this as a new prayer request since the information was not previously listed in our bulletin.) Mr. Gully wrote: "Thank you all for your prayers for Mary and Dave Kissel. Dave continues to struggle with dementia but is not falling anymore. Mary is still struggling with severe cancer pain in her pelvis and hip. She has completed 10 radiation treatments and one round of chemo. She has a follow-up this week to try to gain more understanding as to whether the treatments are working and the pain is temporary, or not, and we need to look at a different trajectory. We are asking God to alleviate the pain and give clarity in this decision-making time."

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Ray Hall** (who had to postpone his speaking in our congregation on July 5) had two surgeries—the first to remove the little toe on his left foot and the second to remove infection in that area. Yesterday, he reported that no other surgery was performed and that he expected to be released from the hospital shortly.

Following are excerpts from a report sent by **Morris Foster** (who had to postpone his speaking in our congregation on July 12): "I have been to the ER with urinary problems three times in the last three weeks and to the urologist office three times—due to prostate issues, urinary retention and a UTI. I had a urologist appointment again this morning. The visit today ended up being a consultation for the much dreaded (but very necessary) cystoscopy procedure scheduled for this coming Monday afternoon. With the cystoscopy, they can look (through the camera) into my bladder and see what is going on. Prayers for a proper diagnosis, remedy and healing are greatly appreciated."

New prayer requests

On Monday, **Nancy Diraison** reported that she couldn't put any weight on her right lower leg (which had almost completely improved). Since she couldn't drive, she missed her physical therapy. On Friday, someone drove her to a chiropractor—who believes that a vertebra in her lower spine has been contributing to a pain in her hip and influencing the problem with her lower leg.

On Monday, **Mary Bailey** (mother of **Mike Bailey**) had a small stroke and spent two nights in a hospital. She was moved to a rehab facility.

On Tuesday, **Dave McLearen** reported: "I had a doctor appointment early this afternoon. Apparently, my back is in need of another nerve burning. The appointment is scheduled for the morning of Aug. 1."

Vonda Ouellette (now living in Houston area) requests prayers for her eyes due to the loss of vision and for her carpal-tunnel surgery on July 28.

Wayne Holmes of Tulsa, Okla., suffered a heart attack on Saturday evening and had triple-bypass surgery on Wednesday.

Scriptures to consider

Job 40:2—"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

Job 40:3-5—"Then Job answered the LORD and said: 'Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; yes, twice, but I will proceed no further.' "

Job 42:1-6—"Then Job answered the LORD and said: 'I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, "Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?" Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, "I will question you, and you shall answer Me." I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.' "

"Ninth Commandment—Part 1"

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 July 26, 2025.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled "Ninth Commandment—Part 1."

Although I previously discussed the first two commandments in two presentations each and the next six commandments in one presentation each, I decided to actually spend five individual presentations on the Ninth Commandment.

Foundational scripture

■ Exodus 20:2—"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them

of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Ninth Commandment

■ Exodus 20:16—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Two major concepts

Following are two verses in the book of Proverbs that mention two major concepts associated with the Ninth Commandment.

■ Proverbs 19:5—"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape."

■ Proverbs 19:9—"A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish."

Many Bible students (as do I) view the Ninth Commandment as dealing with being

a false witness in the legal system and with speaking lies in general.

Five presentations

Here is a list of the topics for the five presentations in this series.

1. False witness in a legal setting
2. Matthew 5:21-26 and Matthew 5:38-42
3. Examples of dealing with false witnesses
4. Speaking lies in general
5. The amazing story of Rahab

False witness in a legal setting

■ Exodus 23:1—Don't help a criminal by giving false evidence.

■ Exodus 23:2—Always tell the truth in court, even if everyone else is dishonest and stands in the way of justice.

■ Exodus 23:3—Don't favor the poor just because they are poor.

■ Proverbs 19:28—A lying witness makes fun of the court system.

■ Proverbs 24:28—Don't accuse anyone who isn't guilty.

■ Proverbs 25:18—A person who bears false witness against his neighbor is like attacking them with a club, a sword and a sharp arrow.

■ Zechariah 8:17—Do not love a false oath.

Deuteronomy 19:15

I view Deuteronomy 19:15-21 as the core of the Wednesday-night presentation and of this article. Let's start with verse 15.

■ Deuteronomy 19:15—One witness shall not rise against a person concerning any iniquity or sin that he commits—but by the mouth of two or three witnesses shall the matter be established.

Before we continue on with the rest of Deuteronomy 19, let's take time to see the other scriptures in the Bible about the concept of two or three witnesses.

Mouths of two or three witnesses

■ Numbers 35:30—One witness is not sufficient testimony against a person facing the death penalty.

■ Deuteronomy 17:6—Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death by the testimony of two or three witnesses—not by only one witness.

■ Matthew 18:16—When the Son of God discussed dealing with conflicts among people, He referred to Deuteronomy 19:15.

■ John 8:17—The Son of God said: "It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true."

■ 2 Corinthians 13:1—The apostle Paul quoted Deuteronomy 19:15.

■ 1 Timothy 5:19—When the apostle Paul discussed dealing with accusations against a leader among a congregation (the same principle that applies to everyone), he referred to the concept of Deuteronomy 19:15.

■ Hebrews 10:28—"Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses."

Back to Deuteronomy 19

Let's return to Deuteronomy 19.

■ Deuteronomy 19:16-17—If a false witness rises against any person to testify against him of wrongdoing, then both people in the controversy shall stand before the Lord—before the priests and the judges who serve in those days.

Imagine how much better the world would be if people prioritized the concepts of Deuteronomy 19:18-19.

■ Deuteronomy 19:18-19—And the judges shall make careful inquiry. And if the witness is a false witness (testifying falsely against a person), then "you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother, so you shall put away the evil from among you."

Wow! Brilliant!

■ Deuteronomy 19:20—Such an approach would stop a lot of evil.

■ Deuteronomy 19:21—"Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

But wait a minute

What did the Son of God say?

■ Matthew 5:38—The Son of God said: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you . . ."

Now would be a good time for you to study Matthew 5:21-26 and Matthew 5:38-42. We will look at those passages next Wednesday night, and I will write about them next weekend.