

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church of God Big Sandy

ChurchofGodBigSandy.com

Aug. 16, 2025 • 1:00 p.m. • Sunset 8:03

Bible studies

Interactive study—1:00 p.m. Dave Havir

Presentation study—2:00 Don Smith
(also transmitted live)

Order of service—3:00 p.m.

Song leader Neil McIver

Pianist Dixon Cartwright

Scripture reading Isaiah 45:5–7

Sermon Don Smith

Quick takes

1. Welcome to guest speaker—The congregation welcomes Don Smith, who will give two presentations today. (Mr. Smith and Dave Havir graduated in the same class at Ambassador College in 1974 and participated together in an archaeological dig in Jerusalem in the summer of 1972.) As you may remember, Mr. Smith went back to Israel in May (for the first time in 53 years) and gave two presentations about his recent trip in our congregation on June 21. We are pleased that he has returned today. We also hope that he will speak in our building during the Feast of Tabernacles in October.
2. Dominoes—Tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.
3. Wednesday-night Bible study—Aug. 20 at 7:00.
4. Edifying the Body—This week's article is "Who's Been Busy Destroying Democracy?" by Victor Davis Hanson.
5. Among Friends—This week's article is "Ninth Commandment—Part 4" by Dave Havir.
6. Eye on the World—Not available at bulletin deadline.

Prayer updates

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Shirley West** was entering hospice care. This week she has continued to be weak and experience some pain (especially in her leg). Her sons (**Benny** and **Stan**) and other family members have been checking on her. Mrs. West appreciates your prayers.

In last week's bulletin, we mentioned that **Timberly Dunnam** was dealing with two situations. The first problem was a kidney stone, which apparently passed this week. (The kidney stone is different from the vein stone. The vein stone is apparently causing her to be nauseous.) The second problem was how she deals with mold. The family is using air purifiers and a dehumidifier to improve the air quality in her room. **Tim** is trying to complete work projects so that he and his sons can remove the moldy areas in their home. They appreciate your prayers.

Nancy Diraison reported that her leg is improving slowly.

Lisa Smith reports that her leg has been hurting. This has hindered her ability to help **Gary Wilson** to get into the car. She also reported: "I've been running a light fever the last two days. I want Gary to go to church to socialize with people, but I don't want to get anyone sick." She appreciates your prayers.

Rose Ann Terhorst reported: "Hopefully, I will be getting my truck back soon so that I can get back to church. I want to thank those who have prayed for me and sent me cards."

New prayer requests

Athena Moore (a 22-month-old girl in England) has been diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. She is scheduled for a full-body MRI in a couple of weeks.

On Wednesday, **Norma Salamah** of Lewes, Del. (sister of **Dave Havir**), went to a hospital with high blood pressure, trouble seeing and feeling unbalanced. A neurologist saw her and considered that she had ocular migraines. She returned home on Friday.

JoAnne Fulcher of Jefferson City, Mo., has a broken wrist and and kneecap.

Haley Mason of Gladewater died on Aug. 9. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Rick Shabi of Winter Park, Fla., died on Aug. 13. Please remember his wife, **Deborah**, and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Eye on the World

- An article by David Hambling titled "Why Putin Thinks He Can Win in Ukraine Despite Huge Russian Death Toll" was posted at nypost.com on Aug. 12, 2025.

“Ninth Commandment—Part 4”

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. 16, 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 4.”

Originally, I decided to spend five individual presentations on the Ninth Commandment. However, I am not sure at this point if the series will be five or six presentations.

First four presentations

Here is a current list of the topics for the first four presentations in this series.

1. False witness in a legal setting
2. Matthew 5:38-42
3. Five examples of dealing with false witnesses
4. The Son of God dealt with false witnesses

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 view the Ninth Commandment as dealing with being a false witness in the legal system and with speaking lies in general.

For the rest of this article, let’s look at eight sections of Scripture where the Son of God was accused.

1—Friend of sinners

The Pharisees and lawyers (Luke 7:30) criticized both John the Baptist and the Son of God.

■ Luke 7:33—Even though John the Baptist did not gorge himself with food and did not drink wine, the Pharisees and lawyers said he had a demon.

So how did the Pharisees and lawyers describe the Son of God?

■ Luke 7:34—They described the Son of God (who ate and drank in moderation) as “a glutton, a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”

2—Setting traps to accuse Him

■ Luke 7:53-54—“And as He said these things to them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to assail Him vehemently, and to cross-examine Him about many things—lying in wait for Him and seeking to catch Him in something He might say, that they might accuse Him.”

3—Brought adulteress to Him

■ John 8:1-4—The scribes and Pharisees brought an adulteress to the Son of God.

■ John 8:5—They said: “Moses (in the law) commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?”

■ John 8:6—They said this to test Him, that they might be able to accuse Him.

■ John 8:7-11—The lesson is legendary.

4—Accused Him of relationship with Beelzebub

■ Matthew 12:24—The Pharisees said: “This fellow casts out demons by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.”

5—Crititized Him for healing on the Sabbath

■ Matthew 12:9-10—They asked Him: “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”—that they might accuse Him.

■ Mark 3:2—“They watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.”

■ Luke 6:7—“So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.”

6—“Breaking the Sabbath” and blasphemy

■ John 5:16—“For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him—because He had done these things [told a man to carry his bed and walk] on the Sabbath.”

■ John 5:17—The Son of God answered: “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.”

Notice how the people responded to that statement.

■ John 5:18—“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father—making Himself equal with God.”

7—Taken to Caiaphas

■ Matthew 26:27—They grabbed the Son of God to take Him to Caiaphas (the high priest) where the scribes and elders were assembled.

■ Matthew 26:59—The chief priests, elders and the council sought false testimony against the Son of God to put Him to death.

■ Matthew 26:60-61—Many false witnesses came forward, but their testimonies did not agree (Mark 14:56)—until two witnesses matched what the Son of God said in Mark 2:19-21.

■ Matthew 26:62-63—For a while, the Son of God did not talk.

■ Matthew 26:64—Then, He said: “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you,

hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

■ Matthew 26:65—The high priest said: “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses?”

8—Taken to Pilate

■ Matthew 27:2—The chief priests and elders bound Him and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

■ Matthew 27:11—When Pilate asked Him a question, He answered.

■ Matthew 27:12-14—When the Son of God did not answer the accusations of the chief priests and elders, the governor marveled greatly.

■ Luke 23:1-2—In the presence of Pilate, the chief priests accused the Son of God of teaching to withhold taxes to Caesar.

■ John 18:31—When Pilate told the Jews to take Him and judge Him according to their law, they responded: “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.”

■ John 18:38—Pilate said: “I find no fault in Him at all.”

■ John 19:4—Pilate said: “I find no fault in Him.”

■ John 19:6—Pilate said: “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.”

■ John 19:7—The Jews answered: “We have a law. And according to our law, He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

■ John 19:10—Pilate asked Christ: “Are You not speaking to me? Don’t you know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”

■ John 19:11—The Son of God answered: “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

■ John 19:12—Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews said: “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”

■ John 19:15—Pilate asked: “Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered: “We have no king but Caesar!”

■ John 19:16—Pilate delivered the Son of God to them to be crucified, and they led Him away.