

## The Building is Not the Church, by Heath Rogers

It is not uncommon for men to take Bible words and attach them to things to which they do not belong. For example, the word “baptism” is unscripturally attached to the practice of sprinkling water upon the head of an infant. The titles “reverend,” and “father” have been attached to preachers and other religious leaders. Another example is when the word “church” is used to refer to a building. While it may be true that a particular building belongs to a specific church, the Bible never uses the word “church” to refer to a physical structure.

The word “church” is translated from the Greek word **ekklesia**, which literally means, “to call out.” In the first century, this word referred to an assembly or a group of people - not to a building or any physical structure. In fact, the word itself doesn’t even have a religious significance in the original language. This can be seen in Acts 19:39, where **ekklesia** is used to refer to a civic assembly. We understand the word “church” to have religious significance because the Bible often uses it to refer to the “group of people” who have been “called out” of the world and now belong to Christ.

When Jesus promised to build his church (Matt. 16:18), he did not mean that he would construct a physical building, but that, based upon his identity as “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v. 16), he would establish a means of saving men which would set them aside from the sinful world.

There is a sense in which the church is a spiritual building. Paul told the Corinthian church that they were “God’s building” (1 Cor. 3:9). Together, saved individuals comprise a spiritual building. “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). Jesus Christ is the foundation (1 Cor. 3:11), the chief cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6), upon which this spiritual building is constructed. Every time a person is saved, another stone is added to the building, that is - another person is added to the church (Acts 2:47).

There is nothing wrong with us using pictures of our building or with placing a sign that reads “Church of Christ” in front of our building. When we do so, we are not claiming that the building is the church, nor are we placing undue attention upon our building. We are simply helping others identify the location of our assemblies. However, it is unscriptural to refer to the building as “the church.” The church is the “called out” body of saved people. – via The Robison Reminder, July 20, 2008

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**March 27, 2016**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**863-899-0987**

**10:20 am Worship**

**Email: [wvann@yahoo.com](mailto:wvann@yahoo.com)**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**[www.evantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.evantchurchofchrist.org)**

**Wednesday Night**

**7:pm**

# Duties Of Christian Citizenship

In a speech he delivered in 1883 entitled *Duties of American Citizenship*, Theodore Roosevelt said, "No man can be a good citizen who is not a good husband and a good father, who is not honest in his dealings with other men and women, faithful to his friends and fearless in the presence of his foes, who has not got a sound heart, a sound mind, and a sound body." In this statement Roosevelt hit on an axiomatic principle that while known, so many times goes unapplied. That is, to paraphrase Aristotle, the whole is the sum of its parts.

Stop for a moment and consider this as it applies to our lives as Christians. If I am a good (i.e. faithful) Christian, then I must be a good husband/wife (Eph. 5:22,25), a good parent (Eph. 6:4), a good child (Eph. 6:1), a good neighbor (Mat. 22:39), honest (Col. 3:9), fearless (Mat. 10:28), of pure heart (1 Tim. 1:5), a good steward (1 Pet. 4:10), etc. If I reflect on my life and realize that I am deficient in one part, then I am also deficient in the whole. Call to mind for a moment the rich young ruler of Matthew 19. He had kept all of the commands that Jesus had mentioned to him and yet he still lacked in one glaring area, covetousness. Because of this, he was not and could not be considered faithful even with his desire to follow Christ.

Do not get me wrong, I realize as well as any that we as people are not perfect in every area of our lives (Rom. 3:23). That being said, we must remember what the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippian brethren, "*Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me*" (Phil. 3:12). We must also press on brethren, understanding that God does not want a part, but the whole.

Will

## Those to Serve

(B) Calvin Burks FV) Keith Stifflemire

(O) Jeffrey Burks (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Jack Wall 2nd prayer Vernon Houts

Announcements: Mike Mallett Singing: Judd Wall

**Prayer list:** Naomi Wall is in **Room 201** at Coryell Memorial Hospital, Mildred Lovell, Gene Payne, Lloyd Crownover, Ruby Jones, Evelyn Hill. Pray for our nation, our Troops and Law Enforcement

*Happy Anniversary*

**April 1st**

Calvin & Tammy Burks

**April 18th**

Jack & Cindi Wall

*Happy Birthday*

To

**Dennis Sheldon March 30th**

**Doug Pruett April 1st**

**Steve Sugg April 6th**

**Carmen Sugg April 9th**

**Emma Lee Burks 28th**

**Connie Mallet 30th**

Every thinking man, when he thinks, realizes that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally - and I do not mean figuratively, but literally - impossible for us to figure out what that loss would be if these teachings were removed. We would lose almost all the standards by which we now judge both public and private morals; all the standards towards which we, with more or less resolution, strive to raise ourselves.

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

## Dates to Remember

**March 27th**

Noon Fellowship Meal

**April 3**

Mission Sunday