

*Happy Anniversary*

**April 18th**

**Jack & Cindi Wall**

*Happy Birthday*

**Emma Lee Burks April 28th**

**Connie Mallett April 30th**

**Dates to Remember**

**April 16th**

**Easter**

**April 30th**

**Fellowship Meal**

**GOOD ADVICE**

In the blink of an eye  
Everything can change.  
So forgive often, and  
Love with all your heart.  
You may never know  
When you may not have  
That chance again.

**Small Things — Or Are They Small?**

We must not despise “the day of small things” (Zech 4: 10). The flame emerging from a match when it is struck is little, but “behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire!” (James 3:5). “A cup of cold water only” is a small gift, but Jesus promised that the donor “shall not lose his reward” (Matt 10:42).

A church member noticed in the bulletin the name of someone who had place membership. She obtained a “welcome” card and mailed it to the newcomer. A small thing—or was it small? “Greet the friends by name” (3 John 14). “Be tenderly affectionate to one another in brotherly love” (Romans 12:10).

Someone drove a considerable distance out of the way to pick up a child who could not have come to Bible School alone. What was in the heart of that “someone”? How much is a child worth?

According to Jesus, to cause a child to stumble is worse than drowning oneself with a rock tied to his neck (Matthew 18:6). If so, how much good has been done when one helps a child?

Someone telephoned that she has been ill three weeks, and would it be safe to mail in her contribution? Is it a small matter with the Lord that we carry out the “purpose” that we made to give, perhaps early in the year? The Holy Spirit told some Christians that, just as there was a desire and a purpose to give, “Now complete the doing” (2 Cor. 8:11-12).

*Hugo McCord, December 16, 1973, Merkel (TX) Church of Christ*

*Edifier*

**Evant church of Christ**

**310 W Brooks Drive**

**Evant, TX 76525**

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**April 9, 2017**



*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:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**7:pm**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

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## Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals

by Doy Moyer

Most are familiar with Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 15, that if Jesus was not raised, and there is no resurrection, then our faith is vain, preaching is vain, and we are to be pitied for believing it all. Another argument that we often make has to do with how pointless life really is if there is no God. Unbelievers have no hope in anything beyond this world, so any life choices will ultimately not matter much.

Paul puts those two ideas together in I Corinthians 15. Please read the larger context, but note here [1 Corinthians 15:31-33](#): "*I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die. Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'*"

This is one of those passages that has been used in many ways, but we should step back and see how Paul makes his point. There really are only two ways to live:

1. with a positive view toward eternal life, or with a belief that this earthly life is all there is.

If we believe in resurrection, then we have a positive view toward eternal life, and in turn we will believe that we must live by God's moral code and holiness will be vital to us: "*Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God*" ([1 Corinthians 15:34](#)). If, on the other hand, we do not believe in the resurrection, then we might as well do whatever we wish, "for tomorrow we die," and that will be that. We won't be any better or worse for whatever we choose. We'll just die.

In this context, Paul states the well known adage: "*Bad company corrupts good morals.*"

What is the point? Behavior is affected by what we believe about resurrection and afterlife. If we don't believe in resurrection, if there is nothing else beyond this, then morals are diminished. We will just die, so it won't really matter what we do.

The problem is that those who did not believe in resurrection were influencing the behavior of other Christians, for the consequences of there being no resurrection leads to a nihilistic view of life and reality. This seems to be the "bad company" against which Paul warns.

**(continued on next page)**

### Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett (FV) Keith Stifflemire

(O) Doug Pruett (A) Kyle Stifflemire

1st prayer Jack Wall

2nd prayer Jeffrey Burks

Announcements: Calvin Burks

Singing: Judd Wall

### Prayer List:

Naomi Wall

Letha Sheldon

Mildred Lovell

Janese Lancaster

Ruby Jones

Loyd Crownover

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

Rescue Personal

## Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals

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**(continued)**

For us, we live in an age that pushes skepticism and disbelief in God or anything supernatural. Resurrection is written off, and the consequences are serious. What we believe about post-death reality will affect our morality and any views we have of meaning and purpose. This is inescapable.

The "bad company" of this passage are those who would influence us not to believe in resurrection. Do we not live in the middle of such bad company today?

We send our kids to schools and universities where they will be around this kind of bad company. We allow ourselves to be influenced by an unbelieving and skeptical media. There is indeed "bad company" all around us, and it does corrupt. People lose their faith due to unbelieving influences, and resurrection no longer factors into how they make decisions.

Now, more than ever, we need to reaffirm our faith in Christ and the resurrection. Only in this way can we keep our real purpose before us, and then we can know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord ([1 Corinthians 15:58](#)).