

Those to Serve

(B) Judd Wall
(FV) Kyle Stifflemire
(O) Jack Wall
(A) Mike Mallett
1st prayer Keith Stifflemire
2nd prayer Doug Pruett
Announcements: Calvin Burks
Singing: Kevin Grant

Happy Birthday

Adree Stapp Feb. 4th
Jeffrey Burks Feb. 7th
Avery Vann Feb. 11th
Mac Vann Feb. 14th

Dates to Remember

February 2nd
Groundhog Day
February 3rd
Mission Sunday
February 12th
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
February 14th
Valentine's Day
February 18th
Presidents Day

Prayer List:

Mike Lovell
Letha Sheldon
Ruby Jones
Loyd Crownover
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Vernon & Linda Houts
Feb. 14th

Philippians 4:5-7 (KJV)

⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

February 3, 2019



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

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Is The Church Building Sacred?

By Will Vann

A friend of mine once turned down an invitation to join me for worship. The reason he declined was, in his words, "If I step foot in a church building, I will be struck by lightning." Even though this was said tongue-in-cheek, the thought behind it (i.e. the church building is sacred ground), is belief commonly held by those that also profess a belief in Christ. By and large, members of the Lord's church understand that when Christ declared, "I will build my church," (Mat. 16:18), He was not speaking of the building that resides at 310 West Brooks Dr., but of those baptized believers that meet therein. Understanding this, we rightly conclude that we, the Christians that make up the church are holy (1 Pet. 1:15,16, 2:19; Rom 12:1; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19), and not the building in which come together to worship.

There are however, at times, beliefs we can hold on to that conflict with what we know to be true. If this conflict occurs, people have the tendency to practice interpretational gymnastics in order to justify their preconceived belief. When one follows the arguments that are made, in order to justify their position, to their logical conclusion it is often found, as Peter said, that "the latter end is worse for them than the beginning" (2 Pet. 2:20). This is the case for those that hold the belief that kitchens and fellowship halls in the church building are unauthorized by scripture and therefore, sinful.

While studying this topic, I came across a statement made by a non-institutional brother who held this position. He wrote, "the issue was not whether or not the building is sacred. Now, I'm not sure how we are using that word 'sacred.' The building is certainly built to be used for spiritual purposes. If it is not to be used for spiritual purposes, then it has no right to exist in the first place. But at the same time, if we're talking about the brick and mortar, the roof, the carpet, and other materials that go into the building - No, they are not sacred. That was never the issue." This brother understands that the building is not sacred, but at the same time, in order to justify his position, he makes the claim that the church building is "used for spiritual purposes" and "If it is not... **then it has no right to exist in the first place** (emphasis mine)."

In this quote, he states that there may be some discrepancy in the way that people use the word sacred. In the ASV the word "sacred" is used to describe the things in the temple (1 Cor. 9:13), and the scriptures (1 Tim. 3:15), while most other translations use "holy" instead of sacred in these verses. In many cases sacred and holy can be used interchangeably, holy meaning, "set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his" (Thayer).

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Is The Church Building Sacred?

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However, Thayer defines sacred as, "consecrated to the deity, pertaining to God (1 Cor. 9:13); sacred Scriptures, because inspired by God (1 Tim. 3:15)." Helps Word-studies defines it as, "properly, sacred (because associated with God's sanctuary, the Temple); consecrated to deity and therefore 'holy.'" When considering this, one may say that the church (**and I would heavily stress that it would be the church and not God**) has set apart a particular building for spiritual use, but I shudder to call any building holy, i.e. "set apart by, or for God." Even more, saying that a church building is a sacred thing, i.e. "consecrated by, or for deity," is a tenant of false religion.

The thing that this non-institutional brother does not seem to understand is that his argument in fact makes the building sacred! By him saying that, "if it (the church building) is not to be used for spiritual purposes, then it has no right to exist in the first place," he is appealing to a higher authority for this right. Compare this to David's desire to build the temple. "But the Lord said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart. Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name'" (1 Kings 8:18,19). Here we can clearly see that God did not give David the right to build the temple. What about his son Solomon? "And the Lord said to him: 'I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually'" (1 Kings 9:3). The Lord gave Solomon the right to build the temple and consecrated (set apart or dedicate to the service of a deity), It, but not David.

As Christians, we might determine to set apart something specifically from spiritual purposes, for instance a building belonging to the church. The important thing for us to understand is just because we have determine this, it does not mean that God has! Although we might never call the church building holy and would even oppose those who do, when we start treating it as such, there is no difference. We can see from the statements made by this non-institutional brother that sometimes our uninspired beliefs can lead us down rabbit holes that we know we should not be in. Concluding, let us always remember what God has determined ought to be holy. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19,20).