

### Those to Serve

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



Dennis Sheldon March 30th  
Doug Pruett April 1st  
Steve Sugg April 6th

### Dates to Remember

**March 17th**  
*St. Patrick's Day*

**March 31th**  
*Noon Fellowship*

**April 1st**  
*April Fool's*

**April 7th**  
*Mission Sunday*

**April 21st**  
*Easter*

### Prayer List:

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



**April 1st**

**Calvin & Tammy Burks**

**April 18th**

**Jack & Cindi Wall**

The family sat down to dinner with the preacher. The little six-year-old, after the prayer, spoke up and said, "Would you please pass the buzzard?" Embarrassed, his mother said, "Johnny, what do you mean? You know we don't eat buzzard in this house!" Johnny replied, "Well, earlier, you and Daddy said, 'We're having that old buzzard for dinner tonight.'" Before condemning your preacher's sermon because it is not original, think about how much worse it might be if it was.

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**March 17, 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**

## ***Narrow Mindedness***

Are you narrow-minded? I am. At least, I have been accused of being that way. And I don't think the one making the accusation intended it as a compliment. My dictionary says narrowminded means "lacking in tolerance or breadth of vision." If I understand that definition, one could be considered narrow-minded for one of two things: failing to see the whole picture or rejecting what he does not consider to be the truth.

There is a physical malady known as tunnel vision. Those who have it can see only straight ahead; peripheral vision is lost. That well describes the first kind of narrow-minded person. He focuses on only part of the truth, ignoring other facts that must be considered.

By this definition we could justifiably call narrow-minded those who believe in salvation by faith only. Such folks typically lock in on a passage that teaches the essentiality of faith, [John 3:16](#) for example. They then act as though that verse is the sum total of revelation on the subject of salvation. Many others ought to be included. There are, in fact, dozens of things to which the Bible attributes salvation.

In your study, always consider all the Bible has to say on a subject. You do not want to be narrow-minded in this sense.

Now to the second kind of narrow-mindedness. If you think about it, truth is narrow. Understanding that is as simple as two plus two. How many truthful answers are there to the equation, 2+2'? Only one. There are an infinite number of wrong answers, only one right one. This principle applies in other fields as well.

The narrow-minded person in the second sense acknowledges the narrowness of truth. He would never accept alternate answers to 2+2 as "just your interpretation," nor would he say, "You believe it your way and I'll believe it mine." Such is a mockery of truth.

The application to religion should be obvious. God's word is truth ([John 17:17](#)) - knowable truth. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" ([John 8:32](#)).

Questions such as "What is God's moral standard?" or "What must I do to be saved?" or "How should I worship God?" have an infinite number of wrong answers. Each has only one right answer - the one revealed in God's word.

Jesus said, "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it" ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)).

The next time someone accuses you of being narrow-minded, and he means it in the second sense, tell him "Thank you." You have been complimented. Are you "broad-minded" enough to recognize it? - by Frank Himmel

## ***"Unless You've Been There . . ."***

A drug addict pushes back against the friend who is rebuking him and trying to encourage his repentance. "You just don't know what it's like. No one can ever understand unless they've been there."

The drug abuser is not the only one to make this argument. An alcoholic often tries this same excuse: so does a smoker, the man hooked on pornography, and the compulsive gambler. All attempts to restore these folks are dismissed with the claim that others who haven't experienced these issues have no ability to comprehend the problem or offer effective help.

We deny this! A person does not need to struggle with all these same problems in order to know that they are sinful, and that the sinner must repent. A proper interpretation of Biblical truths is not affected by one's own personal experiences. Wrong is wrong and sin is sin, no matter whether you've 'been there' or not!

If personal experience provides the 'key' to understanding and applying the Scriptures, then the door is wide open to all sorts of misguided interpretations. For instance: A man tries to justify his divorce and remarriage by arguing that his former marriage was so unhappy and unfulfilling. "Others," he says, "can't understand unless they've been there." Really? [Matthew 19:9](#) still seems pretty clear on that subject. Certainly a homosexual might claim that others can't know what he is dealing with. And while he's right about that sin being hard for others to understand, it does not change the clear condemnation of Scripture ([1 Cor. 6:9-11](#)). Or a parent with an unfaithful child argues against disciplinary action taken by other Christians. "You just don't know because you haven't been there." Maybe, thankfully, we have not - but Bible truth remains unchanged ([1 Cor. 5:1ff](#)).

This same line of reasoning applies to all sorts of family issues, church problems, and other terrible situations. Even without having personally dealt with every conceivable kind of trouble, we can be "complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another" ([Rom. 15:14](#)). Think! - by Greg Gwin

**Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.**