

Those to Serve

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

September 8th

Noon Fellowship
Grandparents Day

October 6th

Mission Sunday

October 14th

Columbus Day

October 16th

National Boss Day

October 27th

Noon Fellowship

Happy Birthday

Kathy Stifflemire Sept. 24th

Vernon Houts Sept. 24th

Autumn Vann Sept. 29th

Prayer List:

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

Quotes & Saying

- ◇ *"It takes a lifetime to build a good reputation, but you can lose it in a minute."*
- ◇ *"Never miss a good chance to shut up."*
— Will Rogers

September 8th

*Friends & Family
Day.*

*Please make plans to
attend and stay for
the noon
Fellowship.*

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

September 8, 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:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Will Vann, Preacher

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God From The Machine

By Will Vann

Have you ever seen a movie where one or more of its characters has been backed into a corner and it seems that there is no hope left? Usually and against all odds, a hero comes out of nowhere, vanquishes the villain and saves the day. These improbably fantastic stories are not new to our modern age. The Latin phrase Deus Ex Machina (God From The Machine) is derived from ancient Greek plays where actors who played gods were brought onto stage using a machine such as a crane. Using this plot device, a seemingly unsolvable problem in a story is suddenly and abruptly resolved by an unexpected and seemingly unlikely occurrence.

I enjoy watching these kind of movies. The good guy always wins, the bad guy always loses, and the explosions are always shown in slow motion. They are mindless entertainments not meant to be analyzed too closely. We know the story line, if there is one at all, is illogical, but in the end that is not why we watched it anyway. Fantasy remains in its realm except when it unconsciously enters our lives. Sometimes we expect our salvation to come out of the blue just as it does for these imaginary characters. So often people live their lives like the ditsy blonde who is running from the serial killer. As she is tripping over tree root in the dark woods we are yelling at the TV “why did you run into the woods, there was a police station right there?”

Is your life lived as if you are expecting Christ to come out of nowhere and save you? We know that someday we will pass from this life to the next, but go about as though this is the only life we will ever live. If something happens hey, God is love, surely He will save me even though I live my life like that blonde girl turning away from every safe place and ignoring all the warning signs. But the apostle Paul warns us, *“since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power”* (2 Thess. 1:6-9). Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ, or are you living in the expectation that against all odds, and maybe even against what the Bible says, I’ll be saved just like in the movies?

Time

By Joe Chesser

It’s that time of year again. It’s time to turn our clocks and watches back one hour. Yahoo! An extra hour on Saturday night! What will you do with it? Stay up an hour later on Saturday night? Sleep an hour longer on Sunday morning? I suspect most people will just absorb it. Our body clocks will simply adjust.

Thinking about having this “extra” hour on Saturday night reminded me of a story in the Old Testament (Joshua 10). During the conquest of Canaan, Joshua was leading the Israelite army against a coalition of five kings of the Amorites. After an all-night march Joshua’s army surprised the enemy and threw them in to confusion. The enemy began to flee, and then two very amazing things happened. To show Israel (and their enemies) who was fighting for Israel, God caused huge hailstones to fall from the sky, killing more from the hail than from the Israelite swords.

But that’s not all. And this is the part of the story that I thought of because of turning our clocks back an hour. Joshua prayed for something many of us do when there is more to get done in a day than there is time to do it. Joshua prayed for the sun to stand still! His prayer wasn’t just a thought that flashed through his mind. Joshua prayed to the Lord in the presence of the Israelite army for the Lord to cause the sun to stand still. And God did it!! “The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day! There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a man. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel” (Joshua 10:12-14).

There are several things about this story that are amazing. The first thing is what it tells us about God and time. Time is meaningless to God. He is eternal. He has no time restraints. For God to make the sun stand still for about a day was nothing to Him. But He did create people within the boundaries of time. Time is very important to us, and how we use our time should be given serious consideration. Joshua didn’t want the extra time for himself. He wanted it for the battle he was fighting for God.

Joshua believed in prayer and Joshua believed in God. Why else would he make such an audacious request of God in the presence of so many people? The Bible tells us that the prayer of a righteous man prayed in accordance with the will of God is powerful and effective (James 5:16, 1 John 5:14-15). This story vividly illustrates both the ability and the willingness of God to answer even the most outrageous prayers.

God wants to give us victory. He is willing to do some amazing things to make it happen, even giving us whatever time we need to get it done. We still have to fight and we still have to pray, but our God can do anything He wants to do – even make the sun stand still for a day! Don’t squander your time. Use it in the service of God.