

Those to Serve

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

So Much Time to Read the Bible

How much time does it take to read from Genesis to Revelation? If you would read the Bible at a standard pulpit speed (slow enough to be heard and understood), the reading time would be seventy-one (71) hours. If you would break that down into minutes and divide it into 365 days, you could read the entire Bible, cover to cover in only 12 minutes a day. Is this too much time to spend reading about God?

Prayer List:

Odell Mallett
Mark Kirby
Virginia Lovell
Janell Houts Hall
Odell Mallett
Dora Martinez
Letha Sheldon
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel

October 31st

Noon Fellowship

November 7th

Mission Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 11th

Veteran's Day

November 25th

Thanksgiving Day

November 28th

Noon Fellowship

Happy Birthday

Valerie Garza Nov. 1st
Tammy Burks Nov. 3rd
Jorge Garza Nov. 12th
Theresa Pruett Nov. 14th
Calvin Burks Nov. 26th
Linda Houts Nov. 28th

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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Evant, TX 76525

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October 31, 2021



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

863-899-0987

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Stay With the Ship

By Joe Chesser

If you like stories of action and suspense, you'll love the story told in Acts 27. It's a dramatic description of a shipwreck where everything is lost ... except the people on board. From what seemed like a promising beginning, the journey quickly turned into a nightmare. A wind of hurricane force (called a "northeaster" - Acts 27:14) battered the ship as it was helplessly driven out of control. Trying anything they could think of, they threw the cargo overboard, and the next day, the ship's tackle. After several days, all hope of being saved was lost (Acts 27:20).

When we get to the place where all hope is lost is when the grace and power of God shines most clearly. There were 276 people on board this ship, and all had given up hope until the Lord spoke to Paul, one of the passengers, assuring him that none would lose their lives (Acts 27:23-25). However, there was one condition to being delivered by God. Everyone had to stay with the ship. When sensing that land was near, some tried to escape in the lifeboat. Paul told the centurion, "Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved" (Acts 27:31). The soldiers believed Paul and cut the ropes that held the lifeboat to the ship. In most cases this would have been a very foolish thing to do, but because they believed, they had to do exactly what God had said, they had to make sure no one could escape. Their only hope was that everyone "stay with the ship." All 276 arrived safely on shore, just as God had promised.

God has given us an even greater promise. He has promised that if we "stay with the ship" we can be saved eternally. Throughout our lives we face the temptation to abandon God's ship (like Israel - Hebrews 3:12 - 4:7). It may literally be during hurricanes, or earthquakes or tornadoes. It may be when faced with cancer or heart disease. It may be when someone we love is suddenly taken from us through violence or immorality or accidents. It may be when we are hurt by those we thought loved us, or deceived by those we trusted. "Northeasters," no matter in what form their brutality may come, can drain us of hope and our only thought is to abandon God and everyone else around us.

But wait! Just as God spoke to Paul words of hope for those around him, He has also spoken words of hope for every one of us. And the words are essentially the same: "Stay with the ship." In this promise, the ship of safety that will deliver us unharmed to the shore of life is the church, the body of Christ. Jesus clearly promised that the church He was to build to transport us to God could not be destroyed, even "the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). Stay with the ship and you'll be saved.

The "northeaster" didn't suddenly stop when God promised to save the people on the ship. They had to demonstrate that they truly believed His promise by riding out the storm. The parallel is compelling for us. The only way to reach the "other shore" is to ride out the storms of life by "staying with the ship." It's our only hope (Revelation 2:8-11).

The Convention

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep the Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles & knowing the truth.

We can't even keep them from conservative values. But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship experience in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken.

So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time, so they can't gain that experience in Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do, Angels. Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior & maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this,?" shouted his angels. "Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life & invent un-numbered schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, then, borrow, borrow, borrow. Convince the wives to go to work for long hours & the husbands to work 6 or 7 days a week, 10-12 hrs. a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work."

"Over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their homes. And see to it that every store & restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds & break that union with Christ."

"Fill their coffee tables with magazines & newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hrs. a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues, & every kind of newsletter & promotional offering, free products, services, & false hopes."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted & unprepared for the coming week.

Don't let them go out in nature to reflect on God's wonders. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts & movies instead.

And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip & small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences & unsettled emotion.

"Let them be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health & family unity for the good of the cause."

It was quite a convention in the end. And the evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy & rush here & there.

Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge.