

Those to Serve

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

October 2nd

Mission Sunday

October 9th

Mens Business Meeting

October 10th

Columbus Day

October 30

Noon Fellowship

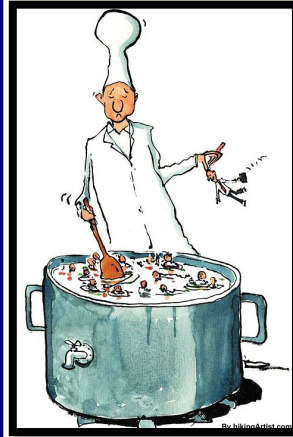
November 6th

Mission Sunday

Daylight Saving Time

Prayer List:

Larry Nuckols Family
Anita Adams
Diane Savage (Virginia's
niece)
Cheryl Burks
Virginia Lovell
Dora Martinez
Letha Sheldon
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel



**Souping
at
Ruby
Jones
home
Oct. 15,
2022
5:15 PM**

Self Improvement Requires a Better Model

Regarding improvement, Oliver Goldsmith once said, "People seldom improve when they have no other model but themselves to copy after." How true! That's why God gave us the perfect model to follow (Rom. 8:29) instead of the example of the world (Rom. 12:2).

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Happy Anniversary

Terry & Haley Day Oct 15th

Happy Birthday

Judd Wall Oct. 10th

Mike Mallett Oct. 21

Haley Day Oct. 21

Ruby Jones Oct 24th

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

October 9, 2022



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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Do What Is Hard

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Imagine, if you would, that over the past few years you have let yourself go and now realize that not only is your belt suffering your health is as well and so you decide to do something about it. Not knowing where to start you decide to get in contact with a personal trainer someone who can help you develop a diet and exercise plan. After getting online multiple ads for gyms and trainers begin to pop up but one, in particular, stands out. This trainer claims that their program is guaranteed to work no matter who you are as long as you are willing to put in the effort. You decide to go with this trainer, but when you meet the guy that is supposed to show you how to turn your life around the first thing you notice is the nacho that is stuck to the front of his shirt. Then you notice the size of his shirt and that's when you realize what your doctor meant by morbidly obese.

In 1 Corinthians chapter nine, Paul uses a sports metaphor to encourage Christians to diligently strive for the promised prize at the end of life (2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 2:10). "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

In verses 24 and 25 he compares athletes running in a race such as the Olympics to the race that is the Christian's life. He reminds us that all who compete for a prize in this life, no matter what it is, are competing for something that will lose its value. I watched a show about a pawn shop once where a man came in with a Super Bowl ring that he wanted to sell. He wasn't even the one who won it, he had gotten it from the original owner. At the time it was won it probably seemed invaluable to the one who won it, but by the time it was in the pawn shop it was reduced to a novelty item. Consider the time and effort that people put into watching various sporting events and the reward they get for it. At most, there is excitement when your team wins. This is not even comparable to the joy the ones competing feel when they win because they know the blood, sweat, and tears that went into it. How much more effort ought we as Christians put into our faith knowing what lies at the end of the finish line?

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Do What Is Hard

(continued)

The Apostle then goes on to describe how he competes. He states that he doesn't run with uncertainty instead, he has his complete focus on the finish line all the while keeping to his lane so as not to forfeit (c.f. 1 Jn. 1:7). He doesn't beat the air but hits his target not wasting his strength by missing the mark. He says he can do this because he disciplines his body to bring it under his full control. The word for discipline that Paul uses literally means to give oneself a black eye. In essence, he is saying that to compete to win he is willing to beat himself black and blue. Are we willing to deny our physical desires? Are we willing to do the hard things? Are we willing to do whatever it takes knowing what we are competing for and whom we are competing against (Eph. 6:11; 1 Pet. 5:8)?

A slovenly and obese personal trainer is not only going to repel potential clients, but he is also going to live a short unhealthy life. Just so, an unfaithful and unprofitable Christian will drive off those in need of salvation and lose his as well (Matt. 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 9:27; 2 Pet. 2:20-22). Most of us realize that if we want to be in shape we need to eat right and exercise, if we want to be financially independent we need to work hard and be frugal, and if we want to go to heaven we need to obey the Gospel and remain faithful. Jack LaLanne wasn't fat, Dave Ramsey isn't poor, and the Apostle Paul wasn't lost. This is because they were willing to do whatever it took to achieve their final goal. They truly practiced what they preached.

By Will Vann

Our Cell Phone Vs. Our Bible by Mike Riley

This writer wonders – "What would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our cell phones?"

- 1) What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets where it would be easily accessible? (Deuteronomy 6:8-9).
- 2) What if we searched for it if we lost it? (2 Kings 22:8; 2 Chronicles 34:14-16).
- 3) What if we flipped through it several times a day? (Acts 17:11).
- 4) What if we used it to receive text messages? (James 1:21).
- 5) What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? (2 Timothy 4:13).
- 6) What if we gave it to our children as gifts? (Deuteronomy 6:7; Deuteronomy 11:19; Psalm 78:1-8).
- 7) What if we used it when we traveled? (Acts 20:20).
- 8) What if we used it in case of an emergency?
- 9) What if we upgraded it to get the latest version?

Something to make us ask, hmmm mmmmmmmmmmm – "Where is my Bible?"