

### Those to Serve

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

#### November 13th

*Men's Business meeting*

#### November 24th

*Thanksgiving Day*

#### December 4th

*Mission Fund*

#### December 7th

*Pearl Harbor Day*

#### December 21st

*First Day of Winter*

#### Prayer List:

Elyza-(Esperance Garza  
Daughter)  
Valerie's sister-in-law  
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

## The Simplicity of the Gospel

Back before the Civil War "Raccoon" John Smith, a pioneer American preacher, was speaking of the plainness of the Gospel of Christ compared to the many and varied systems of men's religion. He was handed a note from the audience which said, "if the gospel is so plain as you say it is, why do you have to labor so hard to get people to understand it?"

Smith replied, "I have often prepared ground in the wilderness for a turnip patch, and though I had the kindest of soil, and the best seed, and the sowing was easy, I never got top or root till I took my axe and hoe and briar knife and went in and whacked and grubbed and cleared the ground. The Lord knows that I do not esteem it hard to preach the gospel to those who are prepared to receive it, but it is labor indeed to root out prejudice, and cut out systems, and clear away sectarian trash that cumbers the minds and hearts of the people. . ." by Bob Hines

### Happy Birthday

**Jorge Garza Nov. 12th**  
**Theresa Pruett Nov. 14th**  
**Calvin Burks Nov. 26th**  
**Linda Houts Nov. 28th**  
**Terry Day Nov. 30th**  
**Lynette Vann Dec. 14th**  
**Virgina Lovell Dec. 19th**

# Edifier

## Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**November 13, 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:**

**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**

## ***The Voice Of God***

Throughout Scripture, the personification of natural phenomena is used to help a carnal people understand a spiritual God. When looking out our windows and seeing the wonders of God's creation it can feel as if nature is speaking to us of the power of God's creative abilities and His love for us in sustaining the world in which we live. However, few things in nature seem to reflect God's majesty as does a thunderstorm. A thunderstorm conjures up both hope and fear, hope for nourishing rain, but fear of the destructive winds, hail, and lightning that accompany it. In **Job 37** we find this in a marvelous picture drawn of God as seen through a storm.

"At this my heart pounds and leaps from its place. Listen! Listen to the roar of His voice, to the rumbling that comes from His mouth. He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth. After that comes the sound of His roar; He thunders with His majestic voice. When His voice resounds, He holds nothing back. God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; He does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that everyone He has made may know his work, He stops all people from their labor. The animals take cover; they remain in their dens. The tempest comes out from its chamber, the cold from the driving winds. The breath of God produces ice, and the broad waters become frozen. He loads the clouds with moisture; He scatters His lightning through them. At His direction they swirl around over the face of the whole earth to do whatever He commands them. He brings the clouds to punish people, or to water his earth and show His love" (**Job 37:1-13**).

Whether we look at those clouds that carry with them both rejuvenating rain and damaging wind as a blessing or as a curse many times depends on if our trust is in God. The next time you hear thunder and see clouds rolling in think of God. Think of His care and of His judgment and think of whether it elicits in you fear or hope and what that says about your spiritual well-being!

By Will Vann

## ***Obey***

My son is now six years old. Consider this excerpt from when he was two: My 2-year-old son knows the word 'obey' and somewhat understands it. However, what motivates him to practice it can vary. For example, one of his favorite things right now is a large floor puzzle that's in the shape of a barn, and it has farm animals standing in front of the barn. He's really impressed us with his ability to put the majority of it together by himself. He takes it apart and puts it together over and over; however, he likes to place it right in the path where we walk through the house. So, one night recently, before bath time, I told him we needed to clean up the puzzle. He proceeded to put the puzzle together, despite my saying it again a little firmer. Shortly after, my wife chimed in and said, 'If you want dessert, you need to clean up your puzzle.' He immediately began putting the pieces in the box. Sometimes, punishment/discipline motivates him to obey. Sometimes, rewards motivate him to obey. And, it is my hope that one day he will obey because of his love for us as his parents.

What motivates us to obey God?

Some are motivated to obey God in view of punishment. It is reasonable, logical, and Scriptural to obey God for fear of punishment. For, "The wages of sin is death" (**Romans 6:23**).

Some are motivated to obey God in view of reward. It is reasonable, logical, and Scriptural to obey God for desire of reward. The same passage states, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (**Romans 6:23**).

But, how many are motivated to obey God out of true love of Him? Jesus said to His apostles, "If you love me, ye will keep my commandments" (**John 14:15**). We often use this passage to note that showing our love to Christ requires keeping His commandments—and that is true. But, perhaps Jesus' statement was more about love than obedience. For, He knows obedience will be automatic, once we have grown to true love for Him. Yes, we have to continue to obey Him and build our relationship with Him in order to grow in our love for Him.

Many obey for fear of punishment, and that is okay. Many obey for hope of reward, and that is okay. How many obey because of love? When someone is speaking, we are much more attentive to the words being spoken, when we love and respect the one who is speaking. This certainly applies to our love for Christ. "We love (him) because He first loved us" (**1 John 4:19**).

God loves you; do you love Him? Have you obeyed Him? Are you obeying Him?

By Clifton Angel