

### Those to Serve

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

**November 6th**  
*Mission Sunday*  
*Daylight Saving Time*  
**November 8th**  
*Election Day*  
**November 11th**  
*Veterans' Day*  
**November 13th**  
*Men's Business meeting*  
**November 24th**  
*Thanksgiving Day*

### Prayer List:

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 Speech Test

James speaks of the power of the tongue. He says we can use the same tongue to praise God and curse other people. We have heard such speech. May I suggest that all speech should pass three acid tests before being uttered toward another.

**1) First, is it true?** In **Exodus 20:16** God said, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." An untrue statement about another can destroy that person for good.

**2) Second, is it needed?** The Bible says, "...he who repeats a matter alienates a friend. Whatever we say about another should serve a worthy and noble cause. Otherwise, we should not say it.

**3) Third, is it kind?** "The words of a talebearer are as wounds" (**Proverbs 18:8**). Nothing cuts more deeply or does more harm than the thoughtless words of a gossip. It grows bigger the more times it is repeated. We should always strive for kindness in all that we say. By Al Behel

### 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**  
**Terry Day Nov. 30th**

# Edifier

## Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**November 6, 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**

## ***An Introduction to Philemon***

Paul's letter to Philemon has often been overlooked. Some people even wonder why it is even included in the Bible. Truthfully, it's a short letter comprised of only 25 verses but it's a letter filled with heart and message of Jesus. From beginning to end, it's concerned with showing love, second chances, and mercy to those who need it most.

Apparently, Onesimus had run away from his Philemon, ended up in prison for it, and probably stolen things from him (**Philemon 18**). Yet, God in his wonderful providence and grace, had brought him to the precipice of a new and better life. While in prison he met a man named Paul who preached Jesus to him and then spent time mentoring and teaching the runaway. As it turns out, Paul knew Philemon and strongly felt that reconciliation was in order.

Throughout this short letter four themes stand out for us to learn.

First, is the message of reconciliation. As I mentioned earlier, reconciliation is a main part of the gospel message. By faith and obedience Onesimus has been reconciled to God and now another reconciliation had to take place. To live his new faith in Jesus, it was necessary for him to return to Philemon.

Second, true Christian love stands out for us. Instead of demanding he accept Onesimus back or even release him to work with Paul, he appeals to Philemon reminding him of his love for Jesus and Paul. Then he recommends that he extend that same level of love to his new brother.

Third, the importance of repentance is seen clearly. Repentance plays an important role in Philemon. True repentance always rights wrongs, seeks to correct the sins of the past, and to generally improve our lives by living by Jesus' standards. Onesimus had wronged Philemon and as much as Paul valued and wanted to keep him close, he knew that this was necessary for true repentance.

Fourth, we see the power of the gospel to change eternities and lives. Before his obedience to the gospel, Onesimus was useless but now in Christ he is useful. Before he was a runaway slave but now, he is a beloved brother. Like Onesimus this was all of us at some point. Desperately needing acceptance and change and the gospel gives that to us. This is a truth that we must accept for ourselves and for others. Change is possible.

Let me encourage you to read this letter again and as you do, take note of the way the fruit of the Spirit stands out so beautifully. By Jeff Arnette

## ***I Can't See Any Harm In It***

Consider these guidelines when determining whether a practice is right or wrong.

**THE PERSONAL TEST:** Will doing this make me a better or worse Christian?

**THE SOCIAL TEST:** Will doing it influence others to be a better or worse Christian?

**THE PRACTICAL TEST:** Will the results of my doing it be desirable?

**THE UNIVERSAL TEST:** If everyone should do this, would it improve or degrade society?

**THE SCRIPTURAL TEST:** Does the Bible endorse it, or is it expressly forbidden by the Word of God?

**THE STEWARDSHIP TEST:** Will my doing this constitute a waste of talent God gave me?

**THE CHARACTER TEST:** What will be the influence of my moral and spiritual stamina?

**THE FAMILY TEST:** Will it bring discredit and dishonor to my family, and will it embarrass them?

**THE PUBLICITY TEST:** Would I be willing for friends, fellow Christians, the elders, and the preacher to know about it?

**THE COMMON SENSE TEST:** Does it agree with just plain, everyday, ordinary common sense?

**THE FAIRNESS TEST:** Is it honest, and is it practicing the golden rule?

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearances of evil." (**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**) by Harry Middleton