

### Those to Serve

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

### Let Each One Say

As life goes onward day by day,  
Let each one to his conscience say  
That flesh is weak but God is strong,  
That right is right and wrong is wrong.  
That I have found my workday flies,  
But therein all my life's hope lies.  
That on life's upward path I'll run,  
My face forever to the sun.  
That I shall do my best today.  
Not let one moment waste away;  
And as I travel on life's road  
I'll try to share a brother's load.  
That force has power, but love has more;  
That peace is mightier than war;  
That real success is only won  
By deeds of kindness one has done.

### 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

#### December 25th

*Christmas*

#### December 31st

*New Years Eve*

#### January 1st

*Mission Sunday*

*January 15th*

*Men's Business Meeting*

#### January 29th

*Noon Fellowship*

#### February 5th

*Mission Sunday*

### Happy Birthday

**Kevin Grant Dec. 24th**

**Letha Sheldon Dec. 25th**

**Will Vann Dec. 26th**

### Happy Anniversary

**January 26th**

**Doug & Theresa Pruett**

# Edifier

## Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**December 25, 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**

**Email: wvann@yahoo.com**

**www.evantchurchofchrist.org**

## ***The Nativity***

Around this time of year, you will see depictions of the birth of Christ displayed everywhere from someone's front yard to their fireplace mantle. These depictions are generally referred to as nativity scenes. Even though the term nativity congers up the idea of Christ's birth in particular, according to Webster's dictionary, the word itself simply means the process or circumstances of being born. The first record of a nativity scene depicting the birth of Christ is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, a Franciscan monk, although many scholars believe that the practice started before his time. Though modern nativity scenes are not Biblically accurate in that they show the wise men at the birth of Christ, an occurrence that happened after (Mat. 2:1), originally the two events were depicted separately. As with many things, through the course of time, these different scenes melded into one and became the nativity scene that we are familiar with today.

With the understanding of what a nativity scene is, should a New Testament Christian display a nativity scene around Christmas time? This is something that has been historically frowned upon in the church being seen as denominational. Since it is neither expressly forbidden nor permitted in Scripture we must consider it critically (1 Cor. 6:12,10:23). One of the best ways to determine if a particular practice is scriptural is to break it down into its constituent elements. In other words, if each part of a thing is good then the whole thing is good. We must first consider if the celebration of Christ's birth is permissible. We know that the death of Christ is to be commemorated on the first day of every week (1 Cor. 11:23-26; Acts 20:7), but the Bible says nothing of commemorating His birth. That being said, we understand that focusing on the birth of Christ one Sunday would not only be permissible but obligatory (Acts 20:26,27). Since this is the case, would it not also be permissible to focus on the birth of Christ every year?

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## ***The Nativity***

***(continued)***

If it is, then would it be permissible to focus on the birth of Christ on the same day every year? Every year that I have been at Evant I have focused my sermons on mothers/women on Mother's Day. If I can focus on mothers on the same day every year why not Christ?

The second thing that we need to consider is whether or not it is okay to display images of Christ. Few Bible class teachers would think anything amiss with having the kids that they are teaching color, cut out, and glue up pictures of Christ at any stage of His life. These same scenes, some of which depict the nativity of Christ, are often taken home after class and proudly displayed on the refrigerator. The problem that many people have with going from their kid's picture on the fridge to a display on the shelf is usually that the one on the shelf is something that denominational people do. The problem with this argument is that it is hard to be consistent. Our denominational friends meet together in a church building to worship on the first day of the week. Many of them sing, pray, give, and partake of the Lord's supper. If we were to say that because those in denominations do something we must not, then we would have a hard time trying to figure out how to worship God as He would have us.

When we stop and think about it, we can see that it would not be inherently wrong to display a nativity scene at Christmas. This being said, it could be instrumentally wrong to do so. If anything that we did causes a brother to stumble (Mk. 9:42;1 Cor. 8:9), then we should not do it even if it is not inherently sinful. Also, it may be unwise to do something that would associate ourselves with false teaching. However, many times the controversy that arises does so because someone has done something that I do not like nor approve of. Fortunately, God is the final arbiter in all that we do, and so when problems do come up, all we have to do is Search His word!

By Will Vann