

### Those to Serve

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

### *Happy Birthday*

**Eloisa Garza March 2nd**  
**Anson Day March 28th**  
**Doug Pruett April 1st**  
**Steve Sugg April 6th**  
**Denise Wall April 11th**  
**Connie Mallett April 30th**

### *Happy Anniversary*

**April 1st**  
**Calvin & Tammy Burks**  
**April 18th**  
**Jack & Cindi Wall**

### **1 John 4:20-21 NKJ**

(20) If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, [a] how can he love God whom he has not seen?

(21) And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

### Prayer List:

Kadence Payne  
Windham Family  
Elyza-(Esperance Garza  
Daughter)  
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

### **February 20th**

*Presidents Day*

### **February 26th**

*Noon Fellowship*

### **March 5th**

*Mission Fund*

### **March 12th**

*Men's Business Meeting*

### **March 12th**

*Daylight Saving Time Begins*

### **March 20th**

*Spring Begins*

### **March 26th**

*Noon Fellowship*

# Edifier

## **Evant church of Christ**

*310 W Brooks Drive*

*Evant, TX 76525*

*254-471-5705*

**February 26, 2023**



*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**

## Christian

It is fashionable today to identify yourself as something other than what you are. You don't need to look too far to find people that identify themselves as cakes, or wolves and are completely serious about this. We may wonder why someone would want to identify themselves as either of these things or as the many other things that they do, but what we must acknowledge is that they take themselves very seriously and do their utmost to present themselves as what they claim to be. Can we say the same for ourselves? There are only three times that the title Christian is used in the Bible, but even so, there are millions that claim this identity. If we say that we are Christians would those around us say that we are very serious and do our utmost to present ourselves as what we claim to be?

A Christian assembles with the church. "Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year, they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11:25-26). Beginning in Acts 11:19-20 we see that the first Christians were made up of both Jews and Greeks. Their background did not matter because the gospel was intended for all (Rom. 1:16) so that all might have the opportunity for salvation. When these people became Christians they did so by turning to the Lord (Acts 11:21). This means that they turned away from the world and its desires to follow Christ. Not only did they turn to the Lord, but they continued in Him with the encouragement of Barnabas (Acts 11:23). The most obvious outward sign of these early Christians continuing in the Lord manifested itself in their continual assembling together with the church (Acts 11:26). The Greek word for church, ekklesia, means to call out from. This shows that the church is made up of those who are called out of the darkness and into Christ's marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). Notice that these first-century Christians were not called into a denomination, in fact, Paul would go on to condemn denominationalism in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. Christians are added to the one body the church (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4), at the point of salvation by God (Acts 2:47). If a person is in a denomination they were not put there by God.

A Christian obeys God, "For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner.

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## Christian

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King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.' Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'You almost persuade me to become a Christian'" (Acts 26:26-28). We sometimes sing the song Almost Persuaded during the invitation reflecting back on the time when King Agrippa uttered these words. The final verse in this song says "Almost persuaded, harvest is past! Almost persuaded doom comes at last! Almost cannot avail; Almost is but to fail! Sad, sad, that bitter wail, Almost, but lost!" King Agrippa knew that to be a Christian he would have to do something that he was unwilling to do and that was to obey. Agrippa believed, Paul stated such (Acts 26:27), but faith alone does not save (Jas. 2:24). Without obedience one cannot be a Christian (2 Thess. 1:8), and without continual obedience, one cannot be a faithful Christian (Gal. 3:1). An obedient child of God will live in such a way that others will see Christ in you (2 Cor. 3:18), but if we are disobedient, as Moses said, your sin will find you out (Num. 32:23).

A Christian partakes of Christ, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (1 Pet. 4:15-16). Examining the context of this passage of Scripture we can see that as Christians we are going to suffer trials as a result of being Christ-like. Jesus, Himself said, "A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (Jn. 15:20). Christ-like living will put us at odds with the rest of the world. Earlier in the chapter Peter says that "In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you" (1 Pet. 4:4). It can be easy to 'go along to get along' so that we don't have any conflicts with those outside of the church. However, in 'going along' we begin to look more and more like the world and less and less like Christ. If those things that we do seem fine to the world but strange to the church we may need to rethink what we are doing.

In looking at those called Christians by the inspired writers of the Bible, do you find that you resemble them? Do you assemble with the Lord's church, or with another? Do you obey the will of God or that of man? Do you follow in the footsteps of Christ causing those in the world to persecute you, or at least look at you strangely, or are you accepted by them? I have seen people that wear a name tag at work with the pronouns they/them on it because what they want to be identified as is not immediately obvious. Must we do the same as Christians, or do our lives speak for themselves?