

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett
(FV) Jack Wall
(O) Mike Lovell
(A) Judd Wall
1st prayer Calvin Burks
2nd prayer Jorge Garza
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

2 Peter 1:3-8

² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

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

March 5th

Mission Fund

March 12th

Men's Business Meeting

March 12th

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 20th

Spring Begins

March 26th

Noon Fellowship

April 2nd

Mission Fund

April 9th

Easter Sunday

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

March 5, 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:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evanchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Be Diligent

You might have heard it said that if you want something to get done give it to a busy person. For, a busy person is busy because they are willing to work as opposed to a lazy person who is not. Throughout Scripture we find the exhortation to be diligent in our pursuit of godliness. **Proverbs 13:4** tells us, “The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing, but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.” The word diligent in Hebrew has a broad usage. It can mean everything from being sharp as in a tool, strict in making decisions, or having a great value like gold. Many times it is used as the opposite of being sluggish or lazy as in **Proverbs 13:4**. One gets the idea that this word is used in reference to things that are eminently, and immediately useful. We find the same exhortation to diligence in the New Testament where the word in Greek means, “To hasten, make haste; to exert oneself, endeavor; to act fervently.” Let us consider a few areas in which diligence is essential in the Christian’s life.

The Apostle Paul urged his protege Timothy to, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (**2 Tim. 2:15**). This positive command is sandwiched in between negative ones in verses 14 and 16 “charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers...shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness” (**2 Tim. 2:14,16**). We can see in both the positive and the negative the motivation for what we do, what we are doing, and the result of what we have done. Be diligent to present yourselves to God as opposed to the implied presenting ourselves to men. Rightly dividing the word of truth, “imparting...without deviation” (NABRE), as opposed to striving about profane and idle words. Never being ashamed as a student of God’s word as opposed to ruining those who hear us by increasing ungodliness. There is not just an encouragement here to be diligent toward God and His word, but also away from the world and its words. We cannot be diligent to both the things of this world and the things of God, we cannot serve two masters.

Paul not only desired for Timothy to be diligent in Spiritual matters, but to be diligent in physical matters as well. “Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

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Be Diligent

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And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments...Do your utmost to come before winter.” (**2 Tim. 4:9-13, 21**). In a very practical vein, Paul is calling upon Timothy for help. There are not enough people to do the work that needs to be done, and by the way, it’s going to be getting cold so please bring my coat and my books while you are at it. There is work that is waiting to be done, physical labor that is waiting on laborers to accomplish it. We know the command, “as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (**Gal.6:10**). Do we understand that you cannot separate physical labor from spiritual labor? Diligent study of the Bible can be both physically and mentally demanding and any benevolent work that is done will cause spiritual growth in the worker. Many times our physical labor in the Lord has a direct impact on the spiritual labor of others. Are we diligently seeking opportunities to labor in God’s kingdom?

Most importantly we must be diligent in our faithfulness to God. “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (**2 Pet. 1:10-11**). This passage flies directly in the face of the doctrine of once saved always saved. It is possible to lose our salvation (**1 Cor. 15:2; 2 Cor. 6:1; Gal. 4:11; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thess. 3:5; 1 Cor. 9:27; Heb. 6:6;...**), and so it is necessary that we “be even more diligent to make your call and election sure.” We did not earn our salvation (**Rom. 4:4**) and so we cannot sustain our salvation merely by our own efforts, but by the grace of God we have the opportunity for obedience (**1 Cor. 15:10**). Consider the Israelites coming out of Egyptian bondage. They were released from slavery not by their own efforts, able to escape Pharaoh’s army, not by their own might, and brought to a land that they did not work for and yet they would not enter. What they lacked was a living faith that would have produced obedience in diligently following God’s will. “For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it...Let us, therefore, be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (**Heb. 4:2,11**).

By Will Vann