

**Those to Serve**

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

**Prayer List:**

Kadence Payne  
Anita Adams  
Virginia Lovell  
Letha Sheldon  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personnel

*Happy Anniversary*

**June 14th**  
**Will & Autumn Vann**

*Happy Birthday*

**Cassidy Stapp June 2nd**

**May 21th**

Noon Fellowship  
High School  
Baccalaureate 7 p.m.

**May 26th**

Evant High Graduation

**May 29th**

Memorial Day

**June 4th**

Mission Sunday

**June 18th**

Father's Day



**May 21st at the Noon Fellowship there will be a Graduation Party for Jana Wall.**

**We will be doing a money card for Jana, please contact, Tammy Burks or Lynette Vann.**

**Galatians 6:7-8 KJV**

***Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***

*Edifier*

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**May 21, 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.evantchurchofchrist.org**

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

## ***Understanding How the Church Grows— Encouragement***

By Brian Mitchell

Have you ever been spiritually discouraged? If you have ever failed at something or seen the failures of others; it is likely that you would answer yes to this question. The fact is that we all get discouraged from time to time and for various reasons.

Sometimes we get discouraged by our own mistakes. There are times when we set out to do something good and our plans backfire. There are times in the church that we try to launch out and do something which we have never done before and then feel like we messed everything up and made ourselves feel like failures. The point is that when you try to do things, especially new things, you are going to mess up and make some mistakes. The problem with our own failures is that they sometimes cause us to become discouraged and discouragement sometimes causes us to give up and think why bother.

Other times we get discouraged by the mistakes of others. Sometimes we get discouraged because of the hypocrisy we see in the lives of other Christians. Sometimes we get discouraged because we see people make commitments to the Lord and then not follow through on them. Sometimes we get discouraged because people just don't seem to be getting involved as they should in the Lord's work. Thus, if it is not our own failures that discourage us spiritually, it is at times the failures and shortcomings of others that do the trick.

That is why we need to be careful about the example we set for others, because we can set the wrong example and actually be a source of discouragement for our brethren. The point of all this is simple though; spiritually speaking we can all become discouraged from time to time and how we collectively deal with that discouragement will greatly affect the health, and thus growth, of this congregation. How do you deal with discouragement, by developing a properly balanced congregation?

There is a place in every church for rebuking and disciplining. Paul had no toleration for false teachers or false teaching, worldliness or immorality. He warned people of hell and the judgment to come. He taught the fact that Christianity involved complete sacrifice and total surrender to the Lord. Paul, however, was not all hell fire and brimstone. He was a man of love and a man of compassion. And outside of our Lord Jesus Christ and Paul's companion Barnabas, there is no one in Scripture that did more to encourage people than did the Apostle Paul—**Rom.1:8-9, 1 Cor.1:4, 1 Thess.4:18, 5:11.**

How do we overcome discouragement? With encouragement (the act of giving hope, courage, and or inspiration to others). Thus, when people are discouraged and disheartened, a healthy church is quick to respond with a healthy dose of Vitamin E-encouragement. Why? Because no church composed of discouraged members is going to be a healthy church and no unhealthy churches are going to be growing. Thus, a local church that desires to grow must be filled with Paul's and Barnabas' that understand and fill the need of providing encouragement to others.

## ***It's Called "The World" For A Reason!***

By Joe Slater

This past January 28 marked 45 years that I have been blessed to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ full time. If you had told me 45 years ago that in America today we would have not only same-sex "marriage" but public schools being forced to permit biological males to use the girls' restrooms and locker rooms, I would have thought you were an over-the-top alarmist. I look back now, however, and ask myself, "Why are you surprised?"

I understand the consternation my brethren express as we watch our country sink deeper and deeper into the moral cesspool. But again, why are we surprised? Less than 40 years after the church began Paul warned Timothy that "evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived"**(2 Timothy 3:13)**. Don't we know better than to think that applied only in the first century A.D.? John told his readers, "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" **(1 John 5:19)**.

It's called "the world" for a reason! "World" refers not to a ball of rock, water, etc., but to everyone and everything opposed to God. We err when we expect the world to behave like Christians should! God has called us to be genuinely counter culture by living and teaching so as to display a stark contrast to the world's darkness.

We ought to be alarmed when those wearing the name of Christ adopt the standards of the world. A few years ago, a major university associated with churches of Christ deliberately (though unsuccessfully) attempted to bring two "chaplains" on board from an openly LGBTQ+ church in the DFW area. More recently a church of Christ (?) in Connecticut identified itself as fully LGBTQ+ inclusive.

Here is something you may have seen on social media: "Jesus ate with sinners, not because He wanted to appear inclusive, tolerant, and accepting, but to call them to a changed and fruitful life. Jesus calls for transformation of life, not for affirmation of identity." Amen and Amen!