

Those to Serve

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

Prayer List:

Dora Martinez
Lynn Parker
Tammy Parker
Kadence Payne
Anita Adams
Virginia Lovell
Letha Sheldon
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel

Happy Birthday

Vernon Houts Sept. 24th
Judy Grant Sept. 28th
Autumn Vann Sept. 29th
Judd Wall October 10th
Mike Mallett Oct. 21st
Haley Day Oct 21st
Ruby Jones Oct. 24th

September 23rd

Autumn Begins

September 24th

Noon Fellowship

October 1st

Mission Sunday

October 9th

Columbus Day

October 29th

Noon Fellowship

No Time for Bible Reading?

How much time does it take to read from Genesis to Revelation? If you would read the Bible at a standard pulpit speed (slow enough to be heard and understood), the reading time would be **seventy-one (71) hours**. If you would break that down into minutes and divide it into 365 days, you could read the entire Bible, cover to cover, in only **12 minutes a day**. Is this too much time to spend reading about God?

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

September 17, 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

Simple Instructions

I occasionally get headaches, and when I do, I sometimes take a pain reliever to combat them. The brand I use has a multipack carton containing the medicine wrapped in a sealed, foil package. Over the years, I have "waged a war" with the packaging, because it has been extremely difficult (for me) to tear open. If I am where scissors are available, I will use the scissors.

It just so happens that I was recently in need of headache relief and I dreaded going through the frustrating process of opening the foil with no scissors. However, for some reason, the fine print on the package caught my attention. There was a straight line across the top and the words indicated that I was to fold the foil straight along the line and then rip the package from top to bottom. Amazingly, as I followed the instructions, I was able to easily open the package. Sensing that my success might have been a fluke, I waited till I got another headache to test the process. Sure enough, I obeyed the instructions again, following them to a "T," and it worked!

Who knew that opening the foil package could be so easy?! I just followed the simple instructions.

This reminded me of the biblical story of Naaman the leper (found in [2 Kings 5](#)). Naaman was a valiant warrior for his king, however, he carried the dreaded disease of leprosy. Following a recommendation from a young Israelite woman, he sought a cure from the prophet of God, Elisha. After consulting his king, as well as Israel's king, Naaman came to Elisha's residence. Instead of going to him and touching him, Elisha sent a messenger with instructions for Naaman to "wash in the Jordan seven times" ([2 Kings 5:10](#)). Instead of obeying the words of the prophet, Naaman expressed his displeasure with Elisha. That displeasure came about because he did not like the part about the washing in the Jordan River—located in enemy territory and possibly seen to be "dirty" by Naaman. He voiced his disappointment in front of his servants, who promptly gave him words of wisdom: "My father, it is a great word the prophet has said to you; will you not do it? . . . So he went and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan River . . . and his skin was restored like the flesh of a child" ([2 Kings 5:13-14](#)).

The instructions may be simple, but sometimes, through our stubbornness, we make things difficult. Jesus asked, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and not do what I tell you?" ([Luke 6:46](#)). That is a good question!

By Lance Cordle

Once Saved, Always Saved?

This popular denominational doctrine is also known as "The Impossibility of Apostasy" or "The Perseverance of the Saints." The Westminster Confession describes it this way: "They whom God hath accepted in His beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of Grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved."

This doctrine is NOT supported by what is taught in God's Word.
Note:

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law, ye are fallen from grace." ([Galatians 5:4](#)) This verse shows that some that were in God's grace could fall from His grace. How can this Scripture be harmonized with the statement above?

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." ([Hebrews 3:12-14](#)) This passage is addressed to "brethren," and they are warned about the possibility of "departing from the living God" and about being "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Their salvation was conditional upon holding "the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end."

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." ([2 Peter 2:20-22](#)) Observe those who are described in this text - people who had "escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord." These people were saved, but they could be "entangled" again and "overcome." And, that latter state would be worse than before they had ever known the Lord. Clearly, they could be lost after having been saved.

More Bible verses are available on this subject, but just these three passages make it clear that "once saved, always saved" is not taught in God's Word. -

by Greg Gwin