

### Those to Serve

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

### 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

### December 10th

Men's Business Meeting

### December 21st

Winter Begins

### December 25th

Christmas Day

### January 1st

New Year's Day

### January 7th

Mission Fund

### January 14th

Guest Speaker Lynn Parker

&

Men's Business Meeting

### Happy Birthday

Lynette Vann Dec. 14th

Virginia Lovell Dec. 19th

Kevin Grant Dec. 24th

Letha Sheldon Dec. 25th

Will Vann Dec. 26th

### Happy Anniversary

January 1st

Judd & Denise Wall

January 26th

Doug & Theresa Pruett

### True Happiness

Everyone wants to find happiness but many are unsuccessful in their search. Often they are looking in the wrong places. True, lasting happiness is found in the spiritual and eternal, not in the material and temporal. Note where the Scriptures say happiness is found.

Happiness is found in having God as your Father. "Whoso trusteth in Jehovah, happy is he" (Prov. 16:20). Second, happiness is found in having the burden of sin removed through Christ. "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered" (Rom. 4:7). Third, happiness is found in obedience to the word. "Blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it" (Luke 11:28).

If you want to be happy, believe in God and his Son, obey God's Word and be cleansed of your sins.  
By George Pledger

# Edifier

## Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

December 10, 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**

## ***The Bible is Understandable***

The multitude of different church buildings downtown in every city stands as a sad reminder of religious division and confusion. In man's loss of unity, he is tempted to blame God and His word, the Bible. Men conclude that, since we do not understand the Bible, then the Bible cannot be understood. This is a most serious and fundamental error. Furthermore, it is a personal attack on either God's goodness or His ability to communicate to men. The Bible declares plainly that it can be understood.

The Bible gives a man all the truth that he needs to please God:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

Even though we do not have the complete record of what Jesus did on earth, we have what we need to understand, believe and be saved.

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

It is the truth that will make us free as Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31,32). Jesus has provided that truth for us today in the pages of the Holy Bible.

It is clear from the Bible itself that God intended for us to understand and obey it. Paul said, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). He also made it clear that God's revelation of the Bible through Him could be understood upon reading. "... How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)" (Ephesians 3:4).

Some parts of the Bible are more difficult than others. Peter said, "...Even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:15-16). Even though it takes more study to understand some of the scriptures, you will notice in this passage that God neither condoned or excused the error that was taught because of Bible misunderstanding. He rather pointed out that the misusers of the Bible brought their own destruction. People will be lost in hell because they misuse the scriptures to teach error.

In a time of flooding religious error and misunderstanding of the Bible let us not blame God and His word, but with great determination find the truth revealed within the pages of the Holy Bible and unite on that truth to salvation. May God richly bless our efforts to know and do His will. - by Dwight McGee

## ***Examining Ourselves***

No matter the stage of life, nobody likes tests. Be it a final test in a class in which you have struggled, a driver's test, or a test the doctor ordered, tests often bring up bad images in our minds. Tests, however, are important in many instances because of their ability to expose the truth. Even in our Christian lives, we need to be ready and willing to test ourselves. Lamentations 3:39-40 explains the reason: "Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD!" In math class, a student may be able to fake success by copying another student's homework, but when test day comes, the truth is exposed. The same is true spiritually.

In 1 John 1-2, John teaches that there is a clear distinction between those who say they are following Christ and those who are genuinely following Christ. For John, those who are genuine are "walking in the light," and those who fake it are "walking in darkness." As we understand the importance of examining ourselves, let us look at John's three-part test of genuine discipleship.

First, a genuine disciple confesses his or her sins to God. John says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1:8-9). While it may be tempting to deny, rationalize, or justify sin, a genuine disciple confesses sin and seeks God.

Second, a genuine disciple practices obedience to God's commands. In 2:4-5 we read, "Whoever says 'I know him' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected." A genuine disciple seeks genuine obedience.

Third, a genuine disciple loves like Jesus. In a command that both came from and is shown in Jesus (2:7-8), John says, "Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling" (2:9-10). Throughout our lives, may we examine ourselves in order that we may live as men and women who "walk in the light, as he is in the light" (1:7). God loves you, and so do I.

By Jared Green