

### Those to Serve

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

### Prayer List:

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

**February 14th**

*Valentines Day*

**February 19th**

*President's Day*

**February 25th**

*Noon Fellowship*

**March 3rd**

*Mission Sunday*

**March 10th**

*Daylight Saving Begins*

*Happy Birthday*

**Avery Vann Feb. 11th**

**Mac Vann Feb, 14th**

**Lindy Burks Feb. 14th**

*Happy Anniversary*

**February 14th**

**Vernon & Linda Houts**

### Obstacles

In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.

By James C. Guy

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

*310 W Brooks Drive*

*Evant, TX 76525*

*254-471-5705*

**February 11, 2024**



*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**

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## ***Does Saying “The Sinner’s Prayer” Save?***

By Bob Prichard

Preachers sometimes invite their listeners to pray something such as, “God, I am sorry I have sinned. Please forgive me and let Jesus come into my heart. Thank you for forgiving me and giving me eternal life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.” The preacher then says, “Since you have asked Christ into your life, you are now His child and your sins are forgiven.” The problem with this, however, is that the promise of forgiveness is from man, not God. God has never promised to hear or respond to “the sinner’s prayer.”

Prayer is a privilege for God’s people. James said, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:16b). Peter quoted Psalm 34:15-16, saying “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil” (1 Peter 3:12). Solomon warned, “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Proverbs 28:9). The psalmist spoke of the dilemma of the sinner: “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18).

But what about the prayers of the publican and the Pharisee? While the Pharisee prayed “with himself,” the publican, “standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus concluded, “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 18:11, 13-14). This does not set the pattern for sinners coming to Christ, however, because both the Pharisee and the publican were already in a covenant relationship with God as part of His chosen people, the Jews. They both, despite their sins, had the right to pray to God.

What about Joel’s prophecy? He said, “It shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call” (Joel 2:32). To “call upon the name of the Lord” means to make an appeal through obedience. Saul of Tarsus spent three days in prayer and fasting, but did not receive salvation from the Lord until he called upon the Lord through obedience. Ananias told him, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). In his baptism, he called on the name of the Lord and his sins were washed away. He would not have been saved if he had merely prayed “the sinner’s prayer,” and had refused to obey the Lord’s command. Jesus said, “If ye shall ask any thing in my name I will do it” (John 14:14). This is not a blanket promise to any person, but to those who follow Him and have the right to ask things in His name, by His authority. This promise is to the children of God. In the very next verse? He puts it simply, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). The multitudes cried out at Pentecost, “What shall we do?” Peter did not respond, “Pray the sinner’s prayer,” but “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:37-38). We will be saved if we do what the believers of Pentecost did.

## ***The Will of God***

God is often blamed for things He did not orchestrate. When terrorists attacked the US, some said it was God’s will. When people are confronted with temptation, some believe God is managing it. Some whoface terrible situations in life, like death, disease, and disability, hold God accountable for what they are suffering. These things are within the will of God but they are not His desired will.

This is a hard pill to swallow for many people. How can something be within God’s will but not within His desire? The answer lies in understanding one very important concept—the free will of mankind.

When God created the universe and placed mankind in the Garden of Eden, He gave them these instructions, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)

These instructions prove that mankind was given something that separated them from the animals. They were given free will. They were given the opportunity to eat freely of every tree in the garden. They were,also, charged not to eat the fruit of one tree.

The free will of man altered the original will of God. He placed them in the garden to prepare for a heavenly home. The taking of Enoch and Elijah without having to go through death may indicate God’s originalplan for the garden. It is possible that He intended mankind to live in the garden until they were ready to be plucked like ripened fruit by the Lord Himself and taken into their heavenly home.

Sin, however, changed the course by which God’s ultimate will for all mankind—a heavenly home—would be gained. We live in a world that is operating under the circumstantial will of God. The circumstances in the world have been changed with the sin of mankind. However, the ultimate will of God has not been changed or altered. We simply must get to that final home through the altered circumstances of sin in the world.

It is, therefore, necessary to understand what is meant by the statement, “So and so is the will of God.” All things are within the will of God in that they exist and He has not stopped them. However, He is not directly responsible for evil in the world. That is Satan’s area. Let’s give him the proper credit.

By Mike Johnson