

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett
(FV) Calvin Burks
(O) Mike Lovell
(A) Jack Wall
1st prayer Judd Wall
2nd prayer Doug Pruett
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 4th

Mission Sunday

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

Spending Time with the Word

"There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labor in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them . . . Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the godly living? Because they neglect their closets, and do not thoughtfully meditate on God's Word. They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go forth into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord. . . ."

- Charles H. Spurgeon

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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February 4, 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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Garbage In, Garbage Out

In the early days of computing, the expression “Garbage In, Garbage” (GIGO) became popular. In the rare case that you are unfamiliar with the expression, it basically means that flawed or incorrect information entered in a computer cannot produce anything but flawed or incorrect results. The first known use of GIGO was in a 1957 syndicated newspaper article about US Army mathematicians and their work with early computers. Army Specialist William Mellin explained that since computers cannot think for themselves, sloppy programming inevitably leads to incorrect outputs. (see the Wikipedia article for specific references to these facts).

Even though we humans, unlike computers, do have brains and can think for ourselves, we don't always choose to do it very well. The sad truth is that, while we do have the capability of logic and reason, our thinking processes are heavily influenced by the information we allow to shape and influence our reasoning. That can be a good thing, if the information we allow to influence us is good and wholesome. But unfortunately, much of what we choose to let enter our thoughts will lead us away from God, not toward Him.

This kind of evil influence began way back at the beginning of time with Adam and Eve when they allowed Satan to deceive them into distrusting and disobeying God. Since then his evil influence has permeated the entire human world. Just a few generations after Adam and Eve, during the days of Noah, “the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6.5). From that point until this very moment, Satan has been successfully influencing our minds with all kinds of evil influences (movies, TV, internet, books, clothing styles, drugs, alcohol, advertisements, greed, jealousy, peer pressure, etc.). Thus the truth of GIGO. The things (garbage) we allow Satan to put into our minds will only lead us to sin which separates us from God (Isaiah 59.1-2).

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Garbage In, Garbage Out

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The good news is that we can, if we choose, have a lot of control over what we allow to influence us. God gives us that choice. God gives us the ability to intentionally decide to fill our heads with “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable” (Philippians 4.8a). I know this because the rest of that verse issues the challenge: “if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4.8b). Instead of filling our heads with garbage, there are plenty of true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and commendable things that we can choose to think about IF we want to. IF you will, you can consistently fill your minds with these kinds of things. IF you do, the results will be awesome! When Jesus was tempted by Satan, he resisted whatever Satan put before him because he had previously filled his mind with the Scriptures, good things from God (Matthew 4.1-11).

Despite what comedian Flip Wilson claimed back in the 70s, the devil cannot make you do anything. It may seem like it at times. The devil's influence can seem overwhelmingly powerful. Yet, we need to remember that God has placed restraints on how much and how far Satan is allowed to tempt us: “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10.13). What a powerful promise from our faithful God!!

God gives us a choice. We can fill our heads with garbage, or we can fill our heads with things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and commendable.

The choice is yours. The results are predictable. “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil heart produces evil” (Luke 6.45).

By Joe Chesser