

## *Happy Birthday*

**Anson Day March 28th**  
**Doug Pruett April 1st**  
**Steve Sugg April 6th**  
**Denise Wall April 11th**  
**Connie Mallett April 30th**

## *Happy Anniversary*

**April 1st**  
**Calvin & Tammy Burks**  
**April 18th**  
**Jack & Cindi Wall**

## **No Reason To Believe The Atheists**

If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collision, then the appearance of organic life on this planet was also an accident, and the whole evolution of man was an accident, too. If so, then all our present thoughts are mere accidents – the accidental by-product of the movement of atoms. And this holds for the thoughts of the materialists and astronomers as well as for anyone else's. But if their thoughts – i.e., of Materialism and Astronomy – are merely accidental by-products, why should we believe them to be true? I see no reason for believing that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents. It's like expecting that the accidental shape taken by the splash when you upset a milk-jug should give you a correct account of how the jug was made and why it was upset.

**by C.S. Lewis**

## **Those to Serve**

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

### **March 3rd**

*Mission Sunday*

### **March 10th**

*Daylight Saving Begins*  
*Men's Business Meeting*

### **March 17th**

*St. Patrick's Day*

### **March 19th**

*Spring Begins*

### **March 31st**

*Noon Fellowship*  
*Easter Sunday*

## **Prayer List:**

Letha Sheldon  
Jorge Garza  
Joyce Windham  
Dora Martinez  
David Jones  
Tammy Parker  
Anita Adams  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personnel

# *Edifier*

## **Evant church of Christ**

*310 W Brooks Drive*

*Evant, TX 76525*

*254-471-5705*

**March 24, 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:**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**863-899-0987**

**10:20 am Worship**

**Email: [wvann@yahoo.com](mailto:wvann@yahoo.com)**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**[www.evanchurchofchrist.org](http://www.evanchurchofchrist.org)**

**Wednesday Night**

**6:00 pm**

## ***Forgiveness***

(2nd in a series)

Last week we learned that unilateral forgiveness can and should be offered when situations arise that do not involve sin. For instance, if someone 'hurts my feelings' or does something that leaves me feeling slighted - these may reflect bad judgment or carelessness, but there is no sin, and I can just let those things pass. I can forgive independent of the actions of the other person – and I should.

However, if sin has occurred, this changes things completely. In cases where sin is involved we are instructed to forgive just like God forgives: "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32). It's hard to imagine how a statement could be any clearer. We are to forgive "just as" God does. Therefore, it is important to observe how He extends forgiveness.

First, He is willing to forgive, and we should be, too. Unfortunately we sometimes act like we want to keep an issue alive. We carry ill will and have a 'chip on our shoulder'. These things ought not to be. God "desires all men to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:3,4) and is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). He is clearly willing to forgive, and we must be, too.

In fact, we could say that God is 'aggressive' about forgiving us. He "commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God didn't have to do that, but He did. Our Lord taught us that we should have that same urgent desire to forgive those who wrong us. "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother" (Matthew 18:15). Don't wait. Take the initiative. Be like God. Be 'aggressive' in making forgiveness available to the one who has sinned against you.

(continued next week) - by Greg Gwin

## ***Be Careful What You Say***

We live in a time when a person has to be careful what words are used. Many are looking for something that is wrong. The way something is said is often noticed. Sometimes even the intent is in question by some. What we say is important. Our words mean a great deal.

Words are accountable. We are accountable for what we say. Jesus said, "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matt.12:37 NKJV) What we say matters a great deal. Do we speak before we think? James advises us to be "swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:20) How many times have we said something only to regret it later? In a Bible class once, a lady stated, "We need to think twice and speak once."

Words are authentic. Words tell something about us. Jesus stated, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45) If a person talks long enough, the heart is revealed through the words that are spoken. Someone once stated, "It is better to keep silent and thought of as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt."

Words are appropriate. Often there are the right words to say at the right time. Do we use appropriate words? Sometimes a person can say the right thing at the wrong time. There are right words to use at the right time. The apostle Paul helps in our understanding by stating "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one." (Col. 4:6) Peter states Christians should be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in them. (1 Pet. 3:15)

Words are aped. Our words may be copied or imitated. I was reminded of this recently when my two-year old granddaughter visited us. The way a toddler learns words is to repeat what is heard. If I don't want my children to say certain words, I shouldn't say them. I have heard individuals respond to a child's language by stating, "Where did he hear that?" The best statement to follow about saying the right thing so it won't be copied is found in Eph. 4:29. Paul writes, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." Someone is always listening to what we say. Do we want it repeated?

Let us always remember that God knows us. He knows what we say. He knows who we are. Do we want God to hear what we say? Let us be careful to speak the words that will please Him.

By Bill Brandstatter