

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

You Can – But You Can't

You can ignore God's warnings; you can refuse his blessings; you can reject all his wondrous love, but you can't go to heaven doing so.

You can believe any doctrine you choose; you can belong to the church of your choice; you can worship God as you please, but you can't please God doing so (2 Jno. 9; Mt. 15:9,13; Rom. 10:1).

It seems that Satan has done a remarkable job of convincing the people that their religion is a matter of their choice, not God's; that it is a matter of their being pleased,

- by Grover Stevens

Those to Serve

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

March 31st
Easter Sunday
April 1st
April Fools Day
April 7th
Mission Sunday
April 15th
Tax Day
April 28th
Noon Fellowship
May 5th
Mission 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 31, 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

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Forgiveness

(3rd in a series)

We have been instructed to forgive others “just as God in Christ also has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32). Last week we observed that God is not only willing to forgive us, but He is also ‘aggressive’ in His desire to forgive. By that we mean that He ‘goes the extra mile’ to make it possible for us to be restored to a right standing with Him – and we should also be willing and anxious to forgive those who sin against us.

With these points in mind, we must emphasize that God’s forgiveness is conditional. That is to say, He requires us to do certain things in order to be forgiven. For the alien sinner, those conditions are clearly stated in what we often refer to as ‘the plan of salvation’. One must hear (Romans 10:17), believe (Hebrews 11:6), repent (Luke 13:3), confess Christ (Romans 10:10), and be baptized (Acts 2:38) in order to be saved. Omit any of these requirements/ conditions, and salvation cannot be obtained. For one who has already become a Christian but sins again, the terms of pardon involve repentance, confession, and prayer (Acts 8:22). Would we argue that – since God has imposed these conditions – He is not a loving and forgiving God? Of course not! As already observed, He is willing and ready to forgive, but His conditions must be met.

What about us? What should we do when someone sins against us? The answer is obvious – forgive them “just as” God does. That means that it is proper to expect them to meet the appropriate conditions of forgiveness. Jesus taught that our forgiveness is to be conditional: “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him” (Luke 17:3).

Some are uncomfortable with the idea that our forgiveness should be withheld until the sinning brother repents. They suggest that the loving thing is to forgive unilaterally and unconditionally. But, think! In doing so we would not be taking important steps to bring our brother back from sin. We would not be motivating him to be right with God. We would be potentially facilitating his continuation in a sin that can cause his soul to be lost.

(continued next week) - by Greg Gwin

What About the Next Sunday?

Some people meet with the church on “Easter Sunday” and hardly ever anytime else. That is out of tradition, not out of thinking seriously about doing the will of God. Tradition has been in the family to at least go to church one time a year, maybe two. But what about the next Sunday? Easter is not biblical in name and meeting on that one Sunday is not biblical. Tradition makes it try to coincide with that time of year Jesus was raised from the dead, but the apostles of Jesus taught and practiced an every-Sunday-meeting manner of faith-life.

The time of Jesus’ death was during the Jewish Passover, which was followed by a week of “Days of Unleavened Bread” (See Exodus 12). That was a yearly celebration of the Jew’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage by breaking Pharaoh’s will to keep his hold on the Israelites. The death of his firstborn broke him after nine other plagues had only hardened him. The death plague “passed over” the Israelites who had the blood of the lamb on their house door facings but killed the firstborn of all Egyptians because they did not have the blood of the lamb on their door facings. The Israelites removed all leaven from their houses as a symbol of leaving the sinful influences of that idol-ridden territory. So, the deliverance from Egypt was a remarkable deliverance that typified and foreshadowed the greater deliverance from sin that we would have in the coming Messiah. Jesus is our Passover (I Corinthians 5:7) Lamb of God who delivers us from bondage to sin and condemnation, and His resurrection on that Sunday morning confirms that He has power over death. Having power over death, His blood has power over sin and Satan’s power to hold us in bondage to sin and condemnation, delivers us from fear of death, and from the power of sin to hold us under condemnation. Indeed, we have the greater deliverance available to us in Christ.

But did you know that the early disciples did not celebrate this deliverance yearly but weekly? Pentecost was fifty days after Passover, and the church formed and took the breaking of bread of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 2:42). Pentecost fell on Sunday, but it was over a month after Passover (what people call “Easter” today). They not only were meeting together over a month after Passover, but they were doing this “continually” and “steadfastly” (Acts 2:42). In Acts 20:6 we see Paul “after the Days of Unleavened Bread” (which was part of the yearly “Passover” week) meeting with the brethren at Troas. “On the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7) declares the Christians were meeting each week even after the Passover week. You should notice that the disciples of Jesus did not merely meet on the Sunday of Passover week, but every week. They did not have a yearly tradition, but a weekly practice. They took the bread of the Lord’s supper every first day of the week. So, what about the next Sunday? They were doing the will of God in their practice of the weekly meeting for the Lord’s Supper. They did not mimic the Jews’ yearly Passover feast. They celebrated each week the memorial of the greater work of Jesus.

What will you be doing the next Sunday and next? A tradition of men or the will of God?
by Terry Wane Benton