

## *Happy Birthday*

*Connie Mallett April 30th*

*Coryell Day May 7th*

*Jana Wall May 18th*

## ***It Takes Courage***

- \*To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it.
- \*To stand up for an absent person who is being abused.
- \*To live honestly within your means and not dishonestly on the means of others.
- \*To be a real man, a true woman, by holding fast to your Christian ideals when it causes you to be looked upon as strange and peculiar.
- \*To be talked about, and yet remain silent when a word would justify you in the eyes of others, but which you cannot speak without injury to another.
- \*To refuse to do a thing which is wrong, though others do it.
- \*To live always according to your convictions. To live always according to the Bible.

## **Those to Serve**

(B) Mike Lovell

(FV) Jorge Garza

(O) Jack Wall

(A) Doug Pruett

1st prayer Mike Mallett

2nd prayer Jack Wall

Announcements: Calvin Burks

Singing: Kevin Grant

***April 28th***

*Noon Fellowship*

***May 5th***

*Mission Sunday*

***May 12th***

*Mother's Day*

***May 19th***

*Men's Business Meeting*

***May 26th***

*Noon Fellowship*

***May 27th***

*Memorial Day*

## **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*

***April 28, 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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## ***Teaching the Old Lessons***

Every once in a while, some well-meaning but misguided brother will chide us for teaching the old lessons. He will say, "You are answering questions which no one is asking any longer." By this, he means to squelch our teaching on the first principles of Gospel obedience and salvation by grace through faith; the nature, organization, and work of the church; Biblical morality; and the need for scriptural authority.

Of course, we understand that some people aren't asking questions like, "What must I do to be saved?" as people did in Bible days (Acts 16:30). However, not everyone raised such an important question back then, either. Just because men ask the wrong questions, or they don't ask any questions at all, does not mean that we must alter our teaching to accommodate the "felt needs" of the people of our time.

Haven't people always clamored for something new, novel, different, and more exciting? Of course, we have. We do like to hear new things, even strange things. A skilled teacher of God's word will be careful to "clothe old truths in new robes," just as a good cook will find new and interesting ways to prepare and serve potatoes. Yet, the truth is still the truth. Its nature and essence never changes. We might present it differently, or we might approach the teaching of truth by some new methods, but in the end, the old truths will be clearly stated.

Older, more mature Christians must learn to be patient as the old lessons are taught again and again. There is always a new generation coming on or a new convert here and there who needs the lessons we think we know all too well. If we insist on teaching something novel and exciting, what will happen to the people who are yet untaught? Do they not now need the same lessons today's mature Christians needed when they were novices? Judges 2:10 states of Israel, following the days of Joshua, "All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel." Even Jeremiah encouraged the people of his day to ask for the "old paths" (6:16). However, most of the people to whom Jeremiah recommended this course rejected it and, as a result, ended up in a seventy-year captivity among the Babylonians. Jeremiah preached that the "good way" was to be found in the "old paths."

It is no compliment to us when many of our young people in some churches have not even been given the opportunity of hearing the old lessons. It isn't that they reject the teaching, they've just never been exposed to it! Elders and preachers who have served up the novel and new while neglecting the tried and true will pay for their negligence, to be sure. Besides, if someone is preaching something new and novel, shouldn't that be examined closely to see whether it is indeed, truth? (Acts 17:11)

We must not grow weary of the old truths which distinguish the people of God. Spiritual ignorance will be the cause of our destruction both now and eternally. If we neglect the old lessons, the church which results, will lose its distinctiveness and the identity which God has given it. - **by Mark White**

## ***Crises Reveal Our Character***

What would you do if you were fired from your job and put in prison because the owner's wife told some horrible lies about you?

What would you do if you had to flee the country because you helped defend a neighbor from an injustice?

What would you do if you were offered something you greatly desired but knew was illegal and life-threatening to obtain?

What would you do if suddenly you discovered that all that you had believed in the past was not true, and instead of serving God you were actually fighting him?

What would you do if you were offered a considerable amount of money to betray a friend?

What would you do if you found out that the woman to whom you were engaged became pregnant before the wedding, and it wasn't your child?

These questions are not about hypothetical situations. They really happened, and the answers to these questions reveal the type of character each person possessed at the time the crisis occurred. You can probably identify each of the people in the above scenarios: Joseph (Jacob's son), Moses, Eve, Paul, Judas, and Joseph (and Mary). Some of them faced the crisis with faith and resolve, and withstood the challenge. Others failed. But what these examples teach us is that when crises occur, our character will be revealed.

All of us have faced and will continue to face many challenges in our lives. They may be strong temptations, they may be difficult choices, they may be heart-breaking health issues. Many of our crises are not personally our own – they may involve our spouse, parents, children, family or friends. Yet they are heavy burdens.

How we handle these crises reveals our character. It also reveals how we have prepared for the inevitable. We may not know exactly what kind of crisis may be coming, but they will come. How we prepare today for them will determine how these crises affect us. Roy Disney once said, "When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier." Joseph was able to overcome the crisis with Potiphar's wife because he had already established his values, even as a teenager. Moses overcame his poor choice by developing spiritually while in the wilderness. Judas failed to prepare for his crisis at any time. Which best describe you right now?

**By Joe Chesser**