

Happy Birthday

Vernon Houts Sept. 24th

Judy Grant Sept. 28th

Autumn Vann Sept. 29th

Mike Mallett Oct. 21st

Ruby Jones Oct. 24th

The Even-Handed Justice of Man

"A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work. (**Proverbs 16:11, NKJV**).

In this exhortation of the Holy Spirit, the king over his people is not one who is to sustain his own pleasures with corrupting influences. Instead, he lives by the standard that is of God. When issues need to be properly judged, the king is to have a standard that is even-handed and right.

The only standard known to man that is that way is the standard that belongs to the Lord. Too often man gets in the way of himself as he tries to administer justice; the subjectivity of evaluating motives makes justice not even-handed at all!

A prime example of this is secular progressivism/liberalism. There is no chance for justice to be rendered even-handedly across the board because the standard of measurement is always floating, changing and fluid. My friends, reject the ways of man (**Proverbs 14:12**) and accept the ways of the Lord. By Ron Thomas

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Mallett

(FV) Judd Wall

(O) Doug Pruett

(A) Calvin Burks

1st prayer Jack Wall

2nd prayer Jorge Garza

Announcements: Mike Mallett

Singing: Kevin Grant

September 8th

Grandparents Day

September 15th

Men's Business Meeting

September 22nd

Autumn Begins

September 29th

Noon Fellowship

October 6th

Mission Sunday

October 13th

Men's Business Meeting

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

September 8, 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

Popping the Question-Setting Up A Study

Would you like to study the Bible? Often in personal evangelism, we are reluctant to do the one thing that most needs to be done, that is come right out and ask people to study the Bible with us. One of the more fascinating things about the Apostle Paul, was how easy he found it to talk to people about the gospel, even in unfamiliar and uncomfortable surroundings. In whatever circumstances he found himself, Paul found it natural to preach the gospel with boldness and confidence-- **Acts 17:16-17, Acts 28:30-31.**

Unfortunately for the Lord and His church today, we as His people, are often far more reluctant to discuss matters of a spiritual nature with those whom we come in contact with. "We may engage in broad discussions of religious topics now and then, and we may even invite others to the services of church. However, we do not very often simply ask people if they will study the Bible with us." Why is that?

The waiting game is popular with many. While relationships are important, we don't have to be blood brothers, before we can ask someone to study the Bible. Some people call this serendipity evangelism—which simply means that we are hoping people will discover the gospel truth by accident. So we don't say anything, and even at time justify questionable activities, on the basis that we are trying to establish contacts. "Whether or not we are consciously following the approach of serendipity evangelism, we seem to have great trouble popping the question. We delay asking people point-blank for a home study."

Waiting is not always better. Granted there are times when it is not possible or even expedient to ask a new acquaintance if they would like to study. Wisdom teaches us to look for the best moment, when all things considered, we have the best chance of getting a yes. The problem is this, "Very often the optimum moment to ask about a Bible study comes earlier, rather than later, in our association with people."

If we are planning to ask for a Bible study at some point, it is often better to do it sooner rather than later. Even if the answer is no, we may still develop a relationship and be in an even better position to teach them later on. And if we don't ask, the answer is always going to be no and we will always know that we did not do the most important thing needed to lead someone to Christ. Ask them if they want to study the Bible.

Not every situation is the same. Wisdom may indicate, a different timetable in different situations, but eventually we must still ask people to study. And no this is not always comfortable and thus not always easy and it is easier for some than others but that does not exclude any of us from seeking to study the Bible with others. A man may dread asking a woman to marry him and he may stumble through doing so, but eventually he gets around to it because he loves her. If we love the lost like Jesus loves the lost, no matter how uncomfortable it may be, we will ask people to study the Bible.

By Brian Mitchell

Worship of Entertainment

There is no doubt that the man we know as Neil Postman described serious problems in modern culture in his insightful 1985 book *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. His thesis was that public discourse has been re-shaped to such an extent by television and entertainment that thoughtful discourse is missing. Show business hype has affected advertising, politics, and religion. Postman's conclusion is that none of these changes have made for improvement.

In our entertainment-oriented culture, many churches find themselves trying to out do themselves with more and more elaborate additions to worship. What began as special music by a choir becomes a full orchestra with professional soloists. A dramatic reading necessitates a full Broadway stage production. And as long as those who come to worship enjoy what is offered, anything goes. The expectation is that sermons will be shorter, wittier, and more uplifting. Anything in worship that cannot be "jazzed up" must be abandoned as boring-and there is nothing worse than being boring, we are led to believe.

The problem with this entertainment orientation is that the very object of worship is forgotten. God is the audience in worship. Jesus told the Samaritan woman that ignorant worship was unacceptable to God, even though it may have been sincere or enjoyable. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (**John 4:24**). To worship God in spirit and truth means that worship must be from the heart, not just outward acts, and that it must be done in exact obedience to God's commands. The worship must be directed to Him, not to the whims of the worshipers.

God's regulations for worship as set out in the New Testament are neither boring nor out of date. They are God-centered, while entertainment is man-centered.

Cultural relevance is important-thus many churches are implementing modern technology such as projection systems to enhance sermons, and there is nothing wrong with the worshiper enjoying worship. God intended for worship to bless His children, but when worship is merely window dressing for an entertainment performance, it cannot please God. The apostle warned, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God" (**2 John 1:9**). Paul condemned things that "have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship" (**Colossians 2:23**). "Self-imposed worship" is that worship fashioned after man's desires.

By Bob Prichard