

Those to Serve

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

February 1st

Mission Sunday

February 8th

Men's Business Meeting

February 14th

Valentine's Day

February 16th

President's Day

February 22nd

Noon Fellowship

March 1st

Mission Sunday

March 7th

Men's Breakfast at the Diner

Happy Anniversary

February 14th

Vernon & Linda Houts

Happy Birthday

Lindy Burks Feb. 14th

Corey Tackett Feb. 20th

Eloisa Garza March 2nd

Rachel Flores March 3rd

Mattie Tackett March 12th

Prayer List:

Vicki Moore
Valerie Garza
Virginia Lovell
Vernon Houts
Wanda Kitchens
Jorge Garza
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel



*Sterling McDonald will be with us on **March 22nd** to talk*

with us about Camp Red Oak Springs church camp in Newton, TX. Corey and Mattie have been a part of the church camp for several years.

Sterling McDonald is the director for Session 3 and also President of the Board of the camp.



SOUTHWEST
SCHOOL OF BIBLE STUDIES

Matt Gibson with Southwest School of Bible Studies will be with us on February 22nd to give a presentation on Southwest School of Bible Studies.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

February 1, 2026



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:

Corey Tackett, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

903-851-1094

10:20 am Worship

Email: corey.tackett96@gmail.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Father, Forgive Me: Understanding Divine Mercy

Gratitude toward the Lord is deeply connected to recognizing His forgiveness and mercy. Many struggle to fully grasp the completeness of God's forgiveness, often feeling burdened by past mistakes even after seeking forgiveness. Sometimes, people swing between extremes—wanting to forgive everyone regardless of their repentance, or refusing to forgive those who have wronged them, believing they've missed their chance.

Jesus addresses these personal relationships in **Mat. 18**, teaching about the process of reconciliation: confronting faults, repentance, and forgiveness, with church discipline as a last resort. The disciples, curious about the frequency of forgiveness, ask, "How often do I forgive my brother?" Peter suggests seven times, thinking it generous since rabbis taught three strikes was the limit (**Amos 1:3, Amos 1:6, Amos 1:9**). Jesus, however, calls for much more—77 or even 490 times—emphasizing that forgiveness should be continual, not counted. He illustrates this with the parable of the Unmerciful Servant.

In **Mat. 18:23-27**, Jesus tells of a servant who owed an unfathomable debt—billions by today's standards. The king, moved by compassion, forgives the entire debt, showing mercy to a penitent servant. This represents God's willingness to forgive all our sins, debts we could never repay. God's grace, provided through Jesus, is greater than any sin, and He releases us from spiritual bondage when we sincerely seek forgiveness. However, penitence is necessary for this gift.

Luke 17:3-4 highlights that God's forgiveness requires repentance—"if" the brother repents, forgiveness follows. The parable continues in **Mat. 18:28-35**: the forgiven servant refuses to forgive a minor debt owed to him, showing harshness and hypocrisy. His lack of mercy leads to punishment, illustrating that God expects us to forgive others as we have been forgiven. If we are not merciful, God may revoke our forgiveness (**John 8:24, Prov. 21:13, Mat. 6:12-15, James 2:13**).

Forgiveness and repentance must come from the heart—insincere apologies or forgiveness are ineffective (**Mat. 18:35, Mat. 5:7, Eph 4:32, Col. 3:13**). God forgives us as we forgive others, and His gift can be revoked if we do not "walk in the light." Willingness to forgive is essential to maintaining God's forgiveness.

The parable of the Unmerciful Servant teaches that if we desire forgiveness, we must be willing to forgive others. God forgives the greater debt; we should forgive the lesser. If you're struggling with forgiveness or burdens after becoming a Christian, remember that prayer and support are always available. Just as Peter and others prayed for Simon the Sorcerer (**Acts 8**), the church family can help by praying for us. The invitation to forgiveness is always open.

By Dale J. Babinsky

Commands from Christ Are Not Optional

I recently read a Bible Q & A article written by a denominational preacher. In it he was asked, "Can you go to heaven if you 'trust' Jesus as your Lord and Savior but you are not yet baptized?" He began his answer by saying: "Yes. Baptism has nothing to do with salvation." Later in the answer he stated: "Baptism is an ordinance instituted by Christ until the 'end of the age'...Clearly this command was not only for the apostles who heard it but for His followers throughout the entire age." Finally, he concluded with: "One is saved without, apart from and before baptism. Those who are saved should desire baptism as a public profession of faith, but please realize that it is not necessary for salvation. If a person believes in Jesus as Lord and is never baptized, they will still be saved." I would like to analyze how this person answered this most sincere and important question about baptism and see if it really "holds water." I think it is very interesting that he admits that baptism is a command from Christ and then declares that it does not have to be followed for salvation. Imagine that – the command from Jesus Christ to be baptized is optional (or so he said)! Given this logic, I wonder what other commands from Christ would be optional? I guess all that are not in line with man's teachings!

All facetiousness aside, listen to what Jesus Himself said concerning what our attitude should be toward every command He gives:

- John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments."
- John 14:21, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me."
- John 15:10, "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love"
- John 15:14, "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you."

Note that there is no room in these verses for options, opinions, or omissions. That's because Jesus is the One with all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt. 28:18). Whatever He has commanded, we'd better do. And Jesus commanded baptism as necessary for salvation (Mark 16:16) and declared it to be the process of how people become His disciples (Matt. 28:19). The apostles went about baptizing "in the name of" Jesus Christ (i.e. in the manner and for the purpose He authorized, see Acts 2:38; 10:48). They knew something we should never forget: If it's a command from Christ, it's not an option. By Edd Sterchi