

Those to Serve

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

April 5th

Mission Sunday
Easter

April 15th

Tax Day

April 26th

Noon Fellowship

May 3rd

Mission Fund

May 10th

Mother's Day

Happy Anniversary

April 1st

Calvin & Tammy Burks

April 18th

Jack & Cindi Wall

Happy Birthday

Doug Pruett April 1st

Steve Sugg April 6th

Carmen Sugg April 9th

Denise Wall April 11th

Michele Jones April 12th

Bill Lewis April 13th

Connie Mallett April 30th

Prayer List:

James Lovell
Valerie Garza
Virgina Lovell
Vernon Houts
Wanda Kitchens
Jorge Garza
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel

Be Thankful

Matthew Henry, author of a widely-respected 19th century commentary on the whole Bible, was once robbed. In his diary that evening he wrote the following words: "Let me be thankful: First, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because even though they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed."

Doesn't that remind you of the beautiful song, Count Your Many Blessings? Think of the words: "Count your many blessings, name them one by one. And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done." God has been so good to each one of us. We have received blessings we certainly have not deserved. Let us be ever thankful, and express our thanksgiving to God constantly in prayer.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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Evant, TX 76525

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March 28, 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

Seeing Ourselves as Victims

From time to time we encounter someone who seems to believe that everyone is against them. Every word that is spoken and every action that is taken is filtered through that lens. A casual comment becomes an insult. A simple disagreement is taken as a personal attack. In their mind, they are constantly being wronged.

Once a person adopts that sort of "victim mentality," it affects everything. If you believe people are always attacking you, then you feel compelled to defend yourself at every turn. Conversations become confrontations. Small matters become big ones. Even the memories of events are re-written to uphold this mindset. Relationships suffer. Sadly, this can happen among Christians. Families are strained, friendships are damaged, and harmony among brethren is disrupted because someone assumes the worst possible motive in others.

But the Bible urges us to have a very different outlook. Paul said that love "is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil" (**1 Corinthians 13:5**). In other words, love does not immediately assume the worst. It does not constantly search for insults or injuries. Solomon offered similar wisdom: "Take no heed unto all words that are spoken" (**Ecclesiastes 7:21**). If we listen hard enough and analyze closely enough, we can probably find something to be offended about. But wisdom says not to live that way.

The victim mentality leaves no room for mercy or grace. Forgiveness becomes nearly impossible, because every situation is viewed as a deliberate offense. Yet the Scriptures plainly command: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (**Ephesians 4:32**). Peter said that "charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (**1 Peter 4:8**). Love looks for ways to overlook non-sinful faults rather than magnify them.

None of this means that real wrongdoing should be ignored. The Bible clearly teaches that sin must be addressed when necessary (**Galatians 6:1**). But there is a big difference between dealing with genuine sin and imagining offenses where none were intended.

If we constantly assume we are victims, bitterness will soon fill our hearts. The Hebrew writer warned us to guard against "any root of bitterness springing up" that can trouble many (**Hebrews 12:15**). Christians should strive for a more generous spirit — one that gives others the benefit of the doubt, that shows patience, and that is quick to forgive. After all, we depend on God's mercy every day (**Matthew 6:12**). A gracious heart will preserve peace in families, friendships, and congregations. And that is exactly the kind of spirit the Lord expects from His people. - by **Greg Gwin**

Only in the Dictionary

"Work" is a word that many people do not like to see. We like to think that we can get certain results without work, but such is not the case.

Only in the dictionary ...

Does "love" come before "work."

Does "trust" come before "work."

Does "growth" come before "work."

Does "heaven" come before "work."

These are just four examples of things people want to achieve without really working for them. Obviously, love is an emotion, but real love takes a lot of work to build and maintain. We only gain trust from others when we put forth the work necessary to build that trust (which usually takes some significant time, too). A relationship, business, effort, or congregation will not grow unless there is a great deal of work involved.

But, what about heaven? Can we go to heaven without working? When we preach that one must be baptized in order to be saved (**cf. Acts 2:38**), we are often told that we are preaching a "works salvation." It is said that we are preaching that one can earn his or her way into heaven.

Nothing could be further from the truth! God's grace saves, but He still requires us to do certain things (**cf. Philippians 2:12**). Most of those who state we preach works salvation will teach that one must believe in order to be saved, and some will teach that one must repent of sins. Are these not works, too? They may not be quite so obvious outwardly, but they are just as much a work as is baptism.

And, when we think about it, baptism is really passive compared to the others. I believe. I repent. I confess. But, I am baptized. Someone must baptize me!

The Bible also makes it clear that we must continue to work for the Lord throughout our life if we want to be found faithful in the Day of Judgment (**cf. Revelation 2:10**). We cannot "pile up" enough good works to ear heaven, but we must humbly submit to the commands of God to be found faithful. "Heaven" only comes before "work" int he dictionary!

By Adam Faughn