#### **Those to Serve**

- (B) Mike Lovell
- (FV) Mike Mallett
- (O) Calvin Burks
- (A) Doug Pruett

1st prayer Jack Wall

2nd prayer Jorge Garza

Announcements: Keith Stifflemire

Singing: Kevin Grant

#### August 28th

Noon Fellowship

September 4th

Mission Sunday

September 5th

Labor Day

#### September 11th

Grandparent Day

Men's Business Meeting

September 25th

Noon Fellowship

#### **Prayer List:**

Diane Savage (Virginia's niece)

**Cheryl Burks** 

Mark Kirby

Virginia Lovell

**Dora Martinez** 

Letha Sheldon

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

Rescue Personnel

#### Lord Make Me Good - Period

Many people who want a relationship with God often add qualifiers to the mix. They want the Lord to make them good, but with a stipulation added. Here are a couple of examples:

- \* "Lord, make me good, but not yet." These people want to live in sin as long as possible. They want to be able to sow their "wild oats" and then for God to save them before they die.
- \* "Lord, make me good, but not completely." These folks want to have the "best of both worlds". They want to be saved, but also still want to hang on to certain sins

But we should simply say to God "Lord, make me good." (Notice the period at the end.) We should say that with no modifiers and with the attitude of doing what God wants us to do and fully trusting Him to make us good and righteous. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21) By Edd Sterchi

# Happy Birthday

Vernon Houts Sept. 24th Judy Grant Sept. 28th Autumn Vann Sept. 29th Judd Wall Oct. 10th

6:00 pm



### **Feeding The Wolf!**

1 Corinthians 9:27

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

#### Introduction

The Holy Spirit's teaching of "self-control" in the life of the Apostle Paul can be further illustrated in the following story:

Story Of Two Wolves

An old grandfather counseled his grandson who was angry at a friend who had done him an injustice.

"Let me tell you a story. I too, at times have felt a great hate for those who have taken so much with no sorrow for what they do; but hate wears you down and does not hurt your enemy. It is like taking a poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times."

He continued, "It is as if there are two wolves inside me; one is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all those around him and does not take offense when no offense was intended. He will only fight when it is right to so, and in the right way. But...the other wolf...ah!

"The littlest thing will send him into a fit of anger. He fights everyone, all of the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, for his anger will change nothing.

"Sometimes it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, for both of them try to dominate my spirit."

The boy looked intently into his grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which one wins Grandfather?"

The grandfather smiled and quietly said, "The one I feed!" Conclusion

Brethren, let's make **certain** that we **"feed"** (spiritually speaking) the **"right"** wolf within each of us.

We can accomplish this by adhering to the inspired words of the Apostle Paul:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

By Mike Riley

## Recognizing Jesus

In John 3, we have recorded the event of Nicodemus, "a ruler of the Jews" (John 3:1), coming to visit Jesus "by night" (John 3:2). Nicodemus treats Jesus respectfully, addressing Him as "Rabbi" (John 3:2), which is quite an honorific given to a Man Who had not attended any of the prestigious rabbinical schools which were operating at that time.

Nicodemus also states, "We know that You are a teacher Who has come from God. For no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" (John 3:2). This is a very astute (and accurate, I might add) observation Nicodemus makes.

Just whom the "we" are who rightly believed that Jesus was a Man Who had been sent by God we don't know for sure, but an educated guess would seem to indicate that at least Joseph of Arimathea would be in this group, for John tells us in **John 19:38**, "Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus," and Pilate granted him this request. John then tells us that Nicodemus was also there with Joseph, and it was Nicodemus who purchased the 75-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes to anoint the body of Jesus as they prepared it for burial (**John 19:39**) in the tomb which belonged to Joseph of Arimathea (**Matthew 27:60**).

Nicodemus was a seeker. He sought truth from Jesus, and Jesus gave it to him, hitting Nicodemus right between the eyes by proclaiming that for one to obtain eternal life and "see the Kingdom of God," one must be "born again" (John 3:3). Jesus speaks to Nicodemus prophetically of Jesus' eventual crucifixion, saying to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

Although Nicodemus knew that Jesus was a "rabbi," a "teacher Who has come from God" (John 3:2), Jesus let him know He was much more than that. He was also the "only begotten Son" (John 3:16) sent by the Father to save, not condemn, the world (John 3:17).

By David R. Ferguson