

### Those to Serve

(B) Kotge Garza  
(FV) Mike Lovell  
(O) Doug Pruett  
(A) Calvin Burks  
1st prayer Keith Stifflemire  
2nd prayer Judd Wall  
Announcements: Mike Mallett  
Singing: Kevin Grant

### *Happy Birthday*

**Mike Lovell July 16th**  
**Keith Stifflemire July 22nd**

### *Happy Anniversary*

**July 10th**  
**Kevin & Judy Grant**  
**July 19th**  
**Mike & Connie Mallett**  
**July 25th**  
**Jorge & Valerie Garza**

### **June 25th**

Noon Fellowship  
Lynn Parker, preaching  
**July 2, 2023**  
Mission Fund  
**July 4th**  
Independence Day  
**July 30th**  
Noon Fellowship  
**August 6th**  
Mission Fund

### Prayer List:

Adree Russell  
Kadence Payne  
Anita Adams  
Virginia Lovell  
Letha Sheldon  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personnel

### **Re-Stating an Abiding Principle**

We have now a plain work - simply the work of the Lord and no other. We have nothing to preach but the gospel, nothing to believe but the truth of God, nothing to do but the will of God, and nothing to hope for only what is promised in the word of God. Our work is not new and untried, but old, well tried, and nothing can stand before us. We have truth and righteousness to maintain - sin and the world to oppose. We can make change only at our peril - no departure without losing all. We started simply to be the people of God, and to give ourselves unreservedly to the Lord. We can not turn away.

- by Benjamin Franklin (gospel preacher, 1812-1878)

# Edifier

## **Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**June 25, 2023**



*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**

**863-899-0987**

**Email: wvann@yahoo.com**

**www.evantchurchofchrist.org**

## ***The Plan of Salvation***

By Jeff Arnette

The Lord's plan of salvation is an important subject that we need to be more comfortable with. What I mean is that we need to have a strong enough foundation with each step so that we can present the plan in its entirety, but also answer the questions that will naturally arise in our discussions with others.

The Lord's plan of salvation is not some new idea created by the Church of Christ in the 17th century. Instead, it is explicitly stated in the pages of the Bible itself. Each step is biblical, Spirit inspired, and necessary for your salvation. Please don't minimize them or reduce them to something less than the Lord's Plan. Eternity hangs in the balance and that is far too important to brush aside as insignificant.

Here is a brief introduction to each step and the Bible verses that support the step. The importance of this is not in my words, but the words of God. Thus, it's imperative that you take the time to read each passage and consider the Lord's words carefully. As you begin let me encourage you to have your Bible open and then pray about what you are studying. Ask the Lord for the help that only he can provide and let the word of God be your guide as you embark on this study.

### ***The Plan of Salvation.***

1. Hear the gospel message of your salvation – **John 6:44-45; Rom. 10:14, 17.**
2. Put your faith in Jesus and his sacrifice for your sins – **John 3:16; 8:24; Mark 16:16; Acts 16:31.**
3. Make the choice to change your life and live for Jesus – **Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 2 Cor. 7:10.**
4. Confess your new faith in Jesus with your voice and actions – **Matt. 10:32-33; Luke 9:26; Acts 8:36-37.**
5. Be baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins – **Acts 2:38-39; Mark 16:16; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:21.**

## ***Preach the Text”***

I am very concerned with what I perceive to be an approach to preaching (and listening) which, more and more, seems to place the word of God in the background. I've heard some sermons recently which illustrate the point. In one, I was not required to open a Bible for the first 20 minutes; in another, one verse was referred to, sort of as a launching pad," and then the Bible was closed from that point on. I heard another "sermon" in which the preacher (who had a degree in psychology) first expressed his opinion about certain problems in our relationship with God, then quoted psychological theories to validate his opinion, then threw in a little Bible, presumably to validate the psychology. If these are examples of "preaching the text," I must admit that I'm very worried about the future of preaching!

We need a fresh reminder of the lesson of Nehemiah 8, where Ezra stood in the pulpit (v. 4) and OPENED THE BOOK (v. 5), reading distinctly from it and helped them to understand what the BOOK said (v. 8). If that does not describe our function as "preachers of the word," then I'm at a loss as to what I'm supposed to be doing as a full-time gospel preacher and teacher. Of course, I'm not sure the problem is all in the pulpit. In fact, I'm pretty well convinced it is not. I preached a meeting recently in which the majority of people did not have a Bible in their possession. Since I was attempting to present an exposition of one of the minor prophets, needless to say, I was at a disadvantage.

I cannot pretend to understand why people of God would enter a building, presumably to hear the word of God preached, and not have a Bible with them. What is going through a person's mind? What are they expecting to hear? What do they want to hear? Platitudes? Maxims?

Jokes? God said through Amos, many years ago, that there would be a "famine in the land, not of bread nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord" (**Amos 8:11**). Such a famine came and the people of Israel suffered the spiritual consequences. There is no such famine now, except when it is self-imposed. In too many places and in the sermons of too many preachers (one is too many), such a famine exists. It extends to the pew and people are beginning to get along quite well without the word of God... after all, if we hear only opinions, we have a choice to accept them or reject them, don't we? "My opinion is surely as good as his, though perhaps not as eloquent."

Perhaps I'm sounding an alarm which is not needed (though I know many others who share my concern). Jeremiah said to beware of those who cry "peace, peace when there is no peace" (4:10). These are just my observations—but if they ring true, in your experience, I'd like to make a couple of short suggestions. To those who occupy the pews each week and listen to preaching, demand (yes, demand) Bible preaching — accept no substitutes. In addition, bring your Bibles, open them up, take notes, listen. Challenge the preacher to present the word of God as the only solution to every problem he presents. We need to be challenged, checked and, sometimes, corrected. And, to my fellow preachers, let's "just preach the text" (**2 Tim. 4:2**).

- by David Posey