

### Those to Serve

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

### **July 9th**

*Mens Business Meeting*

### **July 30th**

*Noon Fellowship*

### **August 6th**

*Mission Fund*

### **August 8th**

*First Day of SCHOOL Evant ISD*

*August 27th*

*Noon Fellowship*

### Prayer List:

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

### **Why Some Are Not Asked**

Happy is the person whose conduct does not raise a question in the minds of others as to where he stands. Some people never have to answer the question, "Will you have a drink with me?" There is a reason. Some young people are never subjected to certain temptations to which others are frequently subjected, and there is a reason.

When your conduct raises a question as to where you stand or as to what you might do, the devil will make you answer that question. Every person who raises a question mark in the mind of people has to defend himself or surrender.

*- by R.L. Whiteside*

# Edifier

## **Evant church of Christ**

*310 W Brooks Drive*

*Evant, TX 76525*

*254-471-5705*

**July 9, 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:**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**863-899-0987**

**10:20 am Worship**

**Email: [wvann@yahoo.com](mailto:wvann@yahoo.com)**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**[www.evantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.evantchurchofchrist.org)**

**Wednesday Night**

**6:00 pm**

## **Lord, Give Me Patience!**

A preacher I once knew had a sign on his desk that read "Lord, give me patience, and give it to me right now." That is the way we often are with patience. I heard, growing up, the statement, "Don't ever pray for patience." Yet, the Bible teaches learning patience can be beneficial to us. It is the learning of it that often gives us problems.

I have often considered myself to be a very patient person, yet during the last three months, I have had to learn it even more. People have told me to have more patience. James wrote: "Knowing the testing of your faith produces patience; but let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." ([James 1:2-4 NKIV](#)) According to James, learning patience can make us more complete as a Christian. He also states we should pray for wisdom in chapter [1:5](#). My understanding is that he is referring to wisdom to deal with trials and to learn patience.

The Bible gives us examples of patience. God is the ultimate example. Peter tells us, "When once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is eight souls, were saved through water." ([1 Pet. 3:20](#))

Peter also tells us more about God's patience. His patience is for our benefit. In [2 Pet. 3:9](#), he writes: "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*"

James tells us the prophets are examples of patience: "*My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience*" ([James 5:10 NKJV](#)). When we think about how long many of the prophets preached and what all they went through we can learn from their examples.

Job was a perfect example of patience. He lost everything and still did not charge God foolishly. ([Job 1:22](#)) At the end of the book of Job, he was rewarded for his faithfulness and his patience. The Bible says, "*And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed, the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*" ([Job 42:10](#))

Let us learn to be patient. It doesn't come naturally. God may be putting us through a trial in our lives to help us learn patience. If so, it will make us better people to deal with the affairs of this life. It will help us in teaching others. It will better prepare us for heaven, our ultimate goal.

**By Bill Brandstatter**

## **The Culture of No Consequences**

In the beginning, the Lord blessed man with a paradise garden to keep, trim, and enjoy. Only one prohibition was mentioned. Adam and Eve were not to eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" ([Gen. 2:17](#)). If they ate, they would lose their place in the garden and forfeit their right to the "tree of life." They would lose their lives and their special relationship with the Lord. This was the consequence. Sadly, they ate of the prohibited tree and paid the consequences.

Have you noticed the singular lack of consequences in almost every system of American culture? God's plan of behavior management for children (the rod of discipline [Pro. 22:15](#)) has been set aside by parents and schools. Athletes, stars and politicians are seen to break laws with impunity. Bad manners and rudeness are tolerated if one is popular or famous. Coaches throw chairs, athletes sling helmets, and parents attack other parents, all clear violations of team rules and rules of appropriate behavior. Yet, rarely are those actions held to account. [Proverbs 19:19](#) tells us the truth: "A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty; if you rescue him, you will have to do it again." Priests and teachers have abused children without penalty. Presidents lie, congressmen take money, etc.

Human beings require structure and discipline. Fortunately for us, our Creator planned for our growth and happiness by holding us accountable. God is honest with us: sin brings death. The Word clarifies His expectations and holds us accountable. God is predictable, consistent, and fair. And aren't we thankful for that! The beauty queen and best player have the same consequence and reward as the rest of us. Moses, God's chosen leader, was held accountable for disobedience ([Number 20](#)). Samson, a judge chosen by God, maintained supernatural strength as long as he followed God's directions. However, God allowed Samson to suffer the consequences of foolish behavior: the Philistines cut his hair, blinded and imprisoned him. Ultimately Samson gained victory over himself and over his enemies; God did not abandon Samson but answered his prayer.

Obedience begins with the fear of consequences. God's people cannot thrive if they accept the culture of no consequences. Churches grow numerically but not spiritually. Many are suffering from the lack of discipline among their members. Fornication, bar-hopping, gossip, and bitterness find their way into churches. Behavior that is plainly un-Christian is ignored while the "positive" is accentuated. By overlooking sin, the consequences of sin are not seen or felt. Paul rebuked the Corinthian church forth is ([1 Cor. 5:1-5](#)). They accepted an adulterer as a faithful brother. Paul told them to deliver him to Satan — to let him know where he was spiritually. They were not even to eat with him. How cruel! No! This is God's way of shocking the sinner into seeing the consequence of his sin.

Not all consequences are bad. In fact, the disciplining of the Corinthian adulterer caused him to repent and return to Christ. Paul urged the brethren to reaffirm their love to him ([2 Cor. 2:3-9](#)). The renewal of Christian fellowship was crucial in helping this brother remain faithful. It remains the same today. We can not live without consequences. Some believe, because God does not punish sin immediately, He will not punish it at all. "Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" ([Ecc. 8:11](#)). This is a serious mistake. In this life we might evade many bad consequences. However, in judgment all will be made right. Everyone will stand before God to be judged based on the things we have done on earth ([2 Cor. 5:10](#)). Don't buy into the idea of a culture with no consequences, for there is no such place in existence.

**David Hartsell**