

EASTERN SHORE CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 6, 2022



Minister: Bryant Evans

Associate Minister: Jeffery King

Youth Minister: Noah Evans

Minister, Awarawaunau Church of Christ in Guyana: Elvis Bernard



Thank you for joining us today at Eastern Shore Church of Christ! Whether you are a long-time member here or a visitor, we are thrilled to have you. Please be sure to stick around following services so we can get to know you a little better, and let us know if we can do anything for you!

Elders

Sid Chupek
Scott Kelly
John Langham
Jonathan Ling

Deacons

Chad Chupek
Scott Lloyd
Peter Verrett
Jesse Olive

Sunday

Worship 10 AM
Bible Study 5 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 PM

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Today's Sermon

**Faith Is the Victory That
Overcomes the World**

**Speaker: Jeff King
1 John 5:3-4**

³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. ⁴ For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1 John 5:3-4 ESV



We have a wide variety of events, such as game nights, trips to various local events, singings, and devotionals for all ages.

**See more
details inside the bulletin!**

Today's Events:

Lads to Leaders: will have Bible Bowl practice at 4:30 PM on Joshua 11-18, 21. Puppet practice will be after our evening Bible classes.

Birthday Celebration for Jeff Farris following our evening Bible Study. Please bring finger foods and drinks.

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Events for this week:

Tuesday:

Men's Weekly Brown Bag Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Saturday:

Singles Valentine Luncheon, 11:30 AM at Café 98 in Fairhope. We need more couples to sign up to take one of our singles to lunch. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board down from the Fellowship Hall. Please see Linda Chupek for any questions.

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Next Sunday:

Area Wide Youth at Spanish Fort church of Christ. The van will leave the church building at 3:45 PM if you need a ride. Please see Noah Evans for details.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

02/06 Luke Olive
02/07 Amanda Olive
02/08 Jeff Farris
02/10 Don Gill
02/11 Rebekah Perry
02/15 TR Clevenger
02/17 Ed Hudson
02/19 Karen Dees
02/21 Patrice Kenney
02/23 Scott Kelly
02/25 Rick Sharpe

The Ladies Monthly Bible Study will start a new series on March 19th called:

"Women Opening the Word:
Our Father in Heaven Teach Us to Pray"
by Cassandra Martin

All ladies are invited to join us. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month at 8:30 AM for breakfast with Bible Study at 9. Please let Glenda know if you would like to participate so she can order you a book.

New & Updated Church Directory Pages are available in the foyer for you to pick up. We will have more pages soon.

Mark Your CALENDAR

- 02/13 Youth Area Wide at Spanish Fort. Please see Noah for any questions.
- 02/15 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 02/18 Primetimer's Bible Study, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring finger foods and drinks.
- 02/19 Ladies Bible Study, 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a breakfast item.
Youth Devo, Time and Location TBD.
- 02/20 L2L Bible Bowl at 4:30 PM and Puppet Practice following our evening Bible Classes.
- 02/22 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 03/01 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 03/06 L2L Bible Bowl Test
- 03/08 Men's Bible Study, 9-10 AM in the Fellowship Hall
- 03/12 Congregational Game Night, 5 PM at the church building. Bring your favorite game and snacks.

Does God Promote Evil?

By: Bryant Evans

Seems an odd question, yes? The idea that the source of good could promote or tolerate evil is beyond thinking. But some Bible passages seem to suggest that God is ok with evil when it suits his purposes. I disagree.

Good and Evil

When God created the heavens and the earth, he declared his finished work to be “*very good*” (Genesis 1:31). Only good existed. Surely, God would not declare something good that was evil. There was no evil because the world was not yet spoiled. Goodness ruled Eden. A unique tree grew in Eden: The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Within its desirable fruit lay the seeds of spiritual catastrophe. Yet the mere existence of the tree was neither good nor evil. It simply existed. Evil would come once mankind rejected the command of God.

Evil was possible, but never desired. Because Adam and Eve sinned, humanity would be banished from the garden and man’s eternal life was now taken. Death invaded the pristine empire of God. But God had a plan.

The Horrific Price of Evil

We know that God does not promote evil because of the terrible, personal, price of evil that God would bear. The placement of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil created a world with choice – a far better world than one without. But choice brought a dark possibility. If man were to choose wrongly, the result would be catastrophic.

Peter says Jesus was “*foreknown before the foundation of the world*” as the world’s savior (1 Peter 1:13 – 25, esp. 20. c.f. Proverbs 8:23; Micah 5:2; Ephesians 1:4). God was not surprised by the sin in Eden but was already fully prepared to rescue sinners from their deserved fate. That rescue demanded the death of Jesus so that God might maintain his pure righteousness (Romans 3:21 – 31). Knowing that Jesus’ death was required because of sin, would God then tolerate sin? It is evidence of his extraordinary grace that he has not already destroyed the world. God “*desires all people to be saved*” (1 Timothy 2:4), therefore, he bears with us and provides every person the opportunity for salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

God paid an extreme price for our sins. He will never promote evil.

God Will Use Evil but not Cause Evil

This is a crucial point. God has often used evil people to accomplish his purposes. Consider characters like Pharaoh, Jephthah, Nebuchadnezzar, The Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day, King Herod, Judas, or Pilate, these wicked people chose an evil path but were still useful in God’s overarching plan. Were it not for Pharaoh, Israel’s family would have never survived the great famine and later produced Jesus. God used Nebuchadnezzar to punish Judah (Jeremiah 1:15). He worked through despicable Judas to bring about salvation. Even the soldiers who nailed the hands of the Savior to the cross were used by God.

God’s ability to precisely know the future allows him to carefully weave his plan through, and in spite of, the evil of men. God knew what Judas would freely choose when faced with temptation to betray Jesus. It was Judas’ choice, and he chose wrongly. God used Judas’ sin but did not compel his sin.

Scripture says God hardened Pharaoh’s heart (Exodus 4:21). But how? Did he compel that hardness or is there another explanation? To be consistent with the entirety of the Bible, we conclude that Pharaoh must have maintained his free choice. Since God desires all to be saved, He would desire the saving of Pharaoh. God did not force Pharaoh to be obstinate and hard-hearted. But God understood that Pharaoh was so wicked that when confronted with the purity and truth of God’s demands and power, he would be stubborn. Thus, God’s very nature caused the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart. Still, God worked through that to bring Israel out of captivity. His mighty works, done at Egypt’s expense, would often be recounted by God and Israel.

God can and will work with any freely chosen path to bring about his will. It is a mistake to suggest that God deprived man of his will and forced his sin.

Please keep in your prayers:

Julie Doughty is having ongoing health problems (daughter of Jerry Doughty).

Rita Fairbairn is having serious health problems (sister of Dwight Isenhower).

Margaret Tucker has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer (Sister-In-Law of Linda Farris).

Tom Busby may have suffered a stroke (Patrice Kenney's father).

Dolly Butler has COVID with pneumonia (Carol Sills' mother).

Karen Smith admitted to hospital for the second time with COVID (former Sister-In-Law of Jerry Doughty).

Please remember our friends and loved ones who are fighting cancer:

Mike Sanford, Bryant Evans, Gus Stranch (great nephew of Patti Van Iderstine), **Jeff Stewart** (friend of Jerry Doughty), **Sharon Vandevender** (wife of Donna Neu's nephew), **Sarah Kennedy, Dot Oubre, Jim Bose and Betty Carter** (friends of Patti Van Iderstine), **Darnell Jackson** (mother of Jaqueline King), **James Doughty** (brother of Jerry Doughty), **Angela Flit** (cousin of Dwight Isenhower), **Will Scott and Paul Thorkelson** (friends of Dwight & Julia Isenhower), **Aaron Bell** (Youth Minister of Valley View church & a friend of the Sanford's), **Wanda Bobinger** (cousin of Patti Van Iderstine), **Mary Neely Hopkins** (sister of Jamie Langham), **Paula Wyer** (cousin of Glenda Verrett), **Joe Smith** (brother of Sherran Brown), **Margaret Tucker** (Sister-In-Law of Linda Farris).

Please keep our shut-ins in your prayers:

MaeBelle Perry, Lum Morrison, Elizabeth Till, James & Ann Christopher, Don & Phyllis Gill, and Jane Betts.

Privileged to Serve

Greeters:	Chad & Erin Chupek
Usher:	Hunter Harp
Building Lockup:	Scott Kelly
Treasurer Assistants:	Jerry Brown and Nathan Evans

Sunday Morning

Lord's Table (presiding):	Chad Chupek
Leading Prayer:	Scott Lloyd
	Kent Purser
Leading Singing:	Jesse Olive
Scripture Reading:	Josh Ratliff

Wednesday Evening

Leading Prayer:	Scott Kelly
	Robert Cagle
Leading Singing:	Noah Evans

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