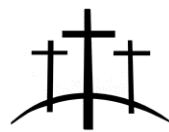


THE FIRST WORD for May 18, 2025



First Baptist Church Eden

A Place of Grace to
Believe, Belong, and Become

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Ministry Assistant: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbccsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

May 18: 3:00 pm Baccalaureate Service

May 24: 9:00 am Place flags on graves at Eden Cemetery

May 25: LORD's Supper
3:00 pm Nursing Home Ministry

May 26: Memorial Day
9:00 am Memorial Service at the flagpole at Eden Cemetery

May 27: 5:30 Natural Remedies

Today's Message
A Gift. Really?
Exodus 24:12
Romans 6:23

Deacon of the Month
Dwain Psencik

FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship 108
Small Groups..... 59
Movie Night..... 44



Mark your calendar!!!!

VBS June 1-4

5:30-8:00 pm

With All Your Heart, Soul, and Strength

Do you remember the feeling of falling in love? Every moment together was sheer joy, and every moment apart was spent in anticipation of a reunion. The more time you spent together, the more you learned about each other; and the more you learned, the more you loved. Eventually, you knew what the other thought without any words being spoken. You knew what would make them happy and what would crush them. Your love grew to a level of intimacy that no one else shared; it was deeply personal.

Consider the words of God spoken through Moses and later repeated by Jesus as the greatest command. "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength," Dt 6:5. That sounds very complete, very intimate, very personal.

Love him with all your heart. According to Hebrew thought, your heart represented your mind and your knowledge. Love God with all your heart meant to dedicate yourself to studying his word and knowing his teachings and instructions for life. It is striving to know God so intimately that you know what pleases him and what displeases him in any moment or situation.

Love him with all your soul. The soul represents an inner sanctuary, a part of you that can commune with God. That communion takes your intellectual knowledge and understanding of God and transforms it into a spiritual relationship. The soul is the part of you that desires and longs for fellowship with the One it was created to be with. It can't stand to be separated from him, just as the Psalmist said, "My soul thirsts for God, for the Living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

Love him with all your strength. In the Hebrew, the word for strength means anything and everything that sustains your physical being. It includes your physical abilities and all of your physical resources. In other words, love the Lord your God with all your strength means with every fiber of your being and every penny in your pocket. The Good Samaritan loved with all his strength. The widow of Zarephath loved with all her strength. The believers who sold their possessions and gave to anyone as they had need, loved with all their strength.

Love God with all your heart...seek to know him in greater measure. Love him with all your soul...let your greatest desire be for spiritual intimacy. Love him with all your strength...let your every action, every deed, and all of your physical resources reflect your devotion to him.

It's the greatest commandment, and it's the greatest for a reason. Hear O Israel.