

Privileged to Serve

Preaching.....Bill Collins
 Announcements..... Dwight Callens
 Song Leader Tom Fair
 Attendance Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening PrayerJacob King
 Lord's Supper
 Randy Rives * * Byron Madison
 Corbin White * * Paul Allen
 Closing Prayer..... Mike Cumberland

Evening

Opening Prayer..... Shannon Finley
 Lord's Supper
 Randy Rives * * Byron Madison
 Closing Prayer.....Jack Mears

Communion to Shut-Ins

None at this time

Communion Preparation

Month of October..... Cindy Harper
 Month of November..... Sandy Vinson

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study6:00 p.m.

Elders

DWIGHT CALLENS.....(601) 527-7149
 TOM FAIR (601) 681-8293

Deacons

ALBERT ST CLAIR (601) 626-7815

Preacher

BILL COLLINS..... (337) 515-2385

Works Supported

Robert Martin
 &
 Stacey Ferguson
 South Pacific Missions

Pine Vale Children's Home
 Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	31
Sunday Morning Worship	58
Sunday Evening Worship	34
Wednesday Bible Study	35

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,812.00

* Figures Unavailable



October 25, 2015 *Meridian Messenger* Welcome Visitors!

What Is A Christian?

✦ By: Ray Ferris ✦

There is much uncertainty in the world regarding the term "Christian" and the great variety of usages indicate that many are using the word in a way unknown to the Word of God. In **Acts 11:26** we read these words: *"And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."* Naturally, this was the first time the name was given to the Lord's people.

In Isaiah 62:2 we read: *"And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name."* In my study I have become convinced that the name which was to be given to those who belonged to the Lord and named by the mouth of God is that which was first given to them in Antioch after Gentiles in great numbers had seen the righteousness of the Lord. There are those who believe that the name Christian was only a nickname given by enemies of the Lord's people in ridicule, and that the Lord had nothing to do with giving it. It is most difficult for me to believe that theory for two reasons. First, we are taught to glorify God by wearing this name (**1 Peter 4:16, and note especially the ASV**), which would seem a little doubtful if the name is one that was originated in ridicule by enemies of the Lord. Second, if this is not the new name which the Lord was to name by His mouth, then when will that new name be given? Or what is it if already given?

However, for our purpose we want to concentrate on another aspect of the situation. The Lord's people during the early days of the church had been known as saints, disciples, brethren, etc. None of these designations is a name in the usual sense of the word as we consider proper names. They are but terms which describe certain qualities and relationships of the Lord's people. If we were to take a car and name it "Lizzy," that does not really change the car into another object, nor give it new qualities or characteristics. It is still the same car, but with a new name. Note our text says, *"...the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."* They were just as much disciples after being called Christians as before. A disciple, by definition, is one who learns, and follows because he has learned. A saint was one who had set himself apart (that is what the term means) unto serving the Lord, and therefore one who would follow after Jesus the Christ. **A Christian, then, is one who has the right to wear the new name given by the mouth of God because he has learned of the Lord, and has set himself apart to serve and follow the Lord. One who has not learned of the Lord's will is not a Christian! One who has not set himself apart as the Lord's servant is not a Christian! These are not qualified to wear the new name for the Lord's people because they have not obeyed His truth.**

~continued inside~

A weekly publication of the *Meridian church of Christ*

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