

**Privileged to Serve**

Preacher .....Bill Collins  
 Announcements..... Byron Madison  
 Song Leader ..... Tom Fair  
 Attendance ..... Terry Dyer/Jacob King

**Morning**

Scripture/Opening Prayer .....Jacob King  
 Lord's Supper

Presiding

\* Dwight Callens

Assisting

Lamar King \* \* Bruce Clopton  
 Dick Vinson \* \* Gene Hurst

Closing Prayer ..... Mike Cumberland

**Evening**

Opening Prayer .....Randy Rives  
 Lord's Supper

Lamar King \* \* Bruce Clopton

Closing Prayer ..... Terry Dyer

**Communion Preparation**

Month of December ..... Sara Dooley

Month of January .....NEED VOLUNTEER

**Service Times**

**SUNDAY**

Bible Study .....9:00 a.m.  
 Morning Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Evening Worship .....5:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study .....6:00 p.m.

**Elders**

DWIGHT CALLENS ..... (601) 527-7149

TOM FAIR .....(601) 681-8293

**Deacons**

LAMAR KING ..... (601) 604-2656

BYRON MADISON ..... (601) 934-1213

RANDY RIVES .....(601) 513-4785

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	42
Sunday Morning Worship	86
Sunday Evening Worship	34
Wednesday Bible Study	*

**Contributions & Other Income**

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,885.75

\* Figures Unavailable



December 6, 2015 ~ Meridian Messenger ~ Welcome Visitors!

**Simply Christians**

By: Dale Smelser

Many people are growing disenchanted with present religious forms which originated in the middle ages and have become meaningless. There is displeasure with denominational structures and dogma. Some, because of such views, have even decided that "Christianity" is not relevant today. We believe they have made that decision because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the Scriptures to be able to distinguish between the gospel of Christ and what men over the centuries have attempted to add to it.

If some of these things have troubled you and you have felt a yearning to return to the simple, uncomplicated religion of Christ, stripping away all the nonessential elements of religion and simply abiding by the truths of Christ, truths which transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that it can and has been done.

The Bible, God's word to man, presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He was foreshadowed and predicted in the Old Testament which God used to govern His people until Christ should come and establish the New (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Galatians 3:19, 23-24). That New Testament reveals the religion of Christ. By studying it we learn all there is to know of the way of Christ.

We learn that among the followers of Christ, in the first century there existed no denominational organizations whatever. In fact, God demanded religious unity: *"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"* (**1 Corinthians 1:10**). All denominations began at a later time.

In the New Testament we see people hearing the gospel and obeying the conditions of God's grace (Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9). Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people, the church (Acts 2:36-47). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (Acts 14:23) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws and be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-3). The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head, Jesus Christ, was and is (Ephesians 1:22-23).

~continued inside~

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