

**Privileged to Serve**

Preacher .....Bill Collins  
 Announcements.....Al St. Clair  
 Song Leader .....Paul Guy  
 Attendance ..... Terry Dyer/Jacob King

**Morning**

Scripture/Opening Prayer .....Paul Guy  
 Lord’s Supper

Presiding

\*Lamar King

Assisting

Byron Madison \* \* Terry Dyer  
 Dwight Callens \* \* Gene Hurst

Closing Prayer ..... Mike Cumberland

**Evening**

Opening Prayer..... Tom Fair  
 Lord’s Supper  
 Byron Madison \* \* Terry Dyer  
 Closing Prayer ..... Dwight Callens

**Communion Preparation**

Month of June.....Renée Cumberland  
 Month of July ..... Brandie Madison

**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  
 BUILDING/GROUNDS  
**BYRON MADISON** ..... (601) 934-1213  
 YOUTH  
**RANDY RIVES** ..... (601) 513-4785  
 EDUCATION & WORSHIP  
**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	33
Sunday Morning Worship	84
Sunday Evening Worship	31
Wednesday Bible Study	*

**Contributions & Other Income**

Contribution Last Week \$ 3,715.00

**Daily Bible Readers**

June 5, 2016 21= 25.9% of attendance ☺  
 \*Figures Unavailable



June 12, 2016

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

**“Has God Hardened Your Heart?”**

When one first reads those verses in Exodus about God hardening Pharaoh’s heart, he can so easily arrive at the conclusion that God forced Pharaoh to do wrong. He can decide that man does not have free will for God totally controls the will of man. Is it possible to reconcile these two concepts?

Has God hardened your heart?



To answer that let me ask, “How does your heart feel toward the Fijian government’s plan to increase import duties on merchandise from the Cook Islands?” Is your heart hardened toward this? Is your heart tender toward such actions? The truth is that your heart is indifferent and neutral toward this.

Now consider Pharaoh’s heart toward God *before* Moses came to confront him. Was his heart “pro-God” or “anti-God”? It was neither. He had lived all of his life with a neutral heart toward God. This obviously changed once he met Moses. He was forced to take a position—either positive or negative toward God’s messenger.

Look carefully at those verses in Exodus. On two occasions before Moses ever confronted Pharaoh, God told Moses that He would harden the king’s heart (Ex. 4:21; 7:3). How did Pharaoh react when he saw Moses’ rod become a snake? He could no longer be neutral toward God, but when the Egyptian magicians duplicated what Moses did, “...the king’s heart grew hard” (Ex. 7:13). When Pharaoh saw the plague of the frogs he told Moses to remove the plague, and he would release the Jews, “But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said” (Ex. 8:15). God did not force Pharaoh. The king hardened his own heart when confronted by God.

The same reaction was seen after the plague of flies, for “...Pharaoh hardened his heart” (Ex. 8:32). It was the same after the death of the cattle (Ex. 9:12). Read carefully what was said after the plague of hail. “*He* sinned yet more; and *he* hardened *his* heart” (Ex. 9:34). Confronted by the miracles he saw, God indeed hardened the king’s heart (Ex. 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27), but *it was Pharaoh who made the decision!*

So, what about God hardening your heart? Before you first confronted the Lord in your life, you were neutral, but that confrontation forced you to make a decision—you had to make a decision. If your heart was hardened, it was done because the Lord’s gospel forced you to make a decision, but it was *you* who made the choice.

You can remain neutral about the Fijian/Cook Islands problem the rest of your life, for it does not involve your life. However, the response to the Lord’s teaching will either cause your heart to grow more tender or grow harder. God will force you to make that decision. *You cannot remain neutral!*

Posted in [Dan Jenkins](http://danjenkins.com) at <http://churchofchristarticles.com/blog/>

A weekly publication of the *Meridian church of Christ*

2229 Highway 19 North ~ PO Box 3476 ~ Meridian, MS 39303-3476 ~ **Phone: (601) 482-5318**

[www.meridianchurchofchrist.org](http://www.meridianchurchofchrist.org) ~ Email: [churchofchristme@bellsouth.net](mailto:churchofchristme@bellsouth.net)