

Privileged to Serve

PreacherBill Collins
 Announcements.....Al St. Clair
 Song Leader Tom Fair
 Attendance Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening PrayerAndy Duncan
 Lord's Supper

Presiding

* Randy Rives

Assisting

Charles Dooley * * Lamar King

Gene Hurst * * Ralph Hubbard

Closing Prayer Mike Cumberland

Evening

Opening Prayer..... NO SERVICE

Lord's Supper

Charles Dooley * * Lamar King

Closing Prayer NO SERVICE

Communion Preparation

Month of December Kitty Dooley

Month of January Sabrina Collins

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

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 45

Sunday Morning Worship 75

Sunday Evening Worship 55

Wednesday Bible Study 47

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 3,111.25

Daily Bible Readers

December 18, 2016 20 = 26.66% of attending

*Figures Unavailable



December 25, 2016 ~ Meridian Messenger ~ Welcome Visitors!

Not Far

The distance to some destinations may make us anxious, such as the distance from our thirteenth birthday to being “on our own.” Jesus spoke of another distance that evidently was intended to instill focus and determination in the man receiving it. When the man, a scribe, commented favorably on Jesus’ answer to this question about the greatest commandment, Mark says that Jesus perceived that he had answered “discreetly” [“intelligently” (NASB)] (Mark 12:34a). That is when Jesus set the man’s sights on the goal, saying, “*Thou are not far from the kingdom of God*” (v. 34b).

In order to appreciate more fully the assessment Jesus gave of this scribe, consider the hostile environment in which his “discreet” answer is found. He told Jesus, “*Well, Master, thou hast said the truth...*” (v. 32). The chief priests, scribes and elders had demanded that He prove His authority (Mark 11:27). The Pharisees and Herodians had attempted to catch him in His words (12:13, 14). The Sadducees had also tried to hang Him on the horns of a dilemma (12:18-23). These were trying to win their debates; the scribe was sincerely seeking truth.

Consider also that the distance was not as much about time or space as it was about character. The Lord was not talking about the church being established, but rather about the people who willingly place themselves under the rule of God, those who would be fit subjects for that kingdom. By accepting these basic teachings of Christ (12:29-31), this man was moving in the direction of letting God’s will (and, therefore, God) reign in his life. Childlike submission to the authority of heaven is prerequisite to entering the kingdom (see Matthew 18:3). Friend, the kingdom is THE place to be, both now and forever. Just follow Acts 2:35-47 to enter.

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J. Brooks Boyd Jr.
 Livingston church of Christ
 Livingston, TN

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

www.meridianchurchofchrist.org ~ Email: churchofchristme@bellsouth.net