Privileged to Serve		
PreacherBill Collins		
AnnouncementsAl St. Clair		
Song LeaderAndy Duncan		
AttendanceTerry Dyer/Jacob King		
Morning		
Scripture/Opening PrayerRandy Rives		
Lord's Supper		
Presiding		
* Dwight Callens		
Assisting		
Charles Dooley * * Tim Beech		
Tommy Beech * * Dick Vinson		
Closing PrayerJack Mears		
Evening		
Opening PrayerJacob King		
Lord's Supper		
Charles Dooley * * Tim Beech Closing Prayer Byron Madison		
Closing PrayerByron Madison		
Communion Preparation		
Month of September Brandie Madison		
Month of OctoberCindy Harper		
Nursery Attendant; Backup		
September 3Glenda Rives; Sabrina Collins		
September 10Lara King; Katie Agan		

Service Times

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		
ANDY DUNCAN (662) 416-2222		
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	31
Sunday Morning Worship	58
Sunday Evening Worship	21
Wednesday Bible Study	30

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,064.77 Pine Vale Special 5th Sunday \$

Daily Bible Readers

August 27, 2017 17 = 29.31% of attending *Figures Unavailable

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 ~ Email: churchofchristme@bellsouth.net



September 3, 2017 September 3, 2017 Meridian Messenger Welcome Visitors! PERSONS OF CONVICTION

A traveling preacher in pioneer days asked a backwoods woman if she had any religious convictions. She said, "Naw, nor my ole man neither. He was tried for hog stealin' once, but he warn't convicted."

Some people understand the word conviction about as much as this woman did. Yet conviction is the very heart of what motivates us to live the Christian life. Conviction is being convinced and really believing. It is the assurance and confidence of true Bible faith. What is faith? The essence of faith is conviction. It is being genuinely persuaded. The American Standard Version gives a good translation of Hebrews 11:11: "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."

Conviction drives a person to be baptized. When the eunuch asked about being baptized, Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest" (Acts 8:37). If a person really believes in heaven and hell, how can he keep from obeying the gospel?

Conviction moves a Christian to stand up and defend the gospel. If a man really believes that God means What he says, he will not stay quiet when people abuse God's Word.

Conviction motivates a person to evangelize. If he really believes that his friends and relatives are bound for the place "Which burneth with fire and brimstone" (Rev. 21:8), he will do all he can to save them. Paul said, "As it is Written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (2 Cor. 4:13).

Conviction keeps a Christian faithful to the doctrine of Christ. It keeps him from being "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:14).

Conviction moves a person to give up sin. The conviction that he will stand before God will motivate him to live right more than all the wisdom human psychology can offer. Conviction keeps a man from sin. When Joseph was approached by Potiphar's Wife, his conviction in God kept him pure: "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9).

Conviction is behind every area of genuine service to God. It moves us to attend all the services, give as we should, get involved in the work of the church, and order our lives after God's will. Do we wonder why people in the church don't act like they should? The answer is simple: there is a lack of conviction. The stronger the conviction, the greater the service.

God help us to "increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). Bulletin Digest, Aug'17 † Kerry Duke, Livingston, TN