

### Privileged to Serve

Preacher.....Bill Collins  
 Announcements.....Randy Rives  
 Song Leader.....Andy Duncan  
 Attendance.....Terry Dyer/Jacob King

#### Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer.....Terry Dyer  
 Lord's Supper

#### Presiding

\* Lamar King

#### Assisting

Byron Madison \* \* Ralph Hubbard

Gene Hurst \* \* Jared Agan

Closing Prayer.....Stan Raley

#### Evening

Opening Prayer.....Jared Agan

#### Lord's Supper

Byron Madison \* \* Ralph Hubbard

Closing Prayer.....Randy Rives

#### Communion Preparation

Month of April.....Angela Duncan

Month of May.....Kitty Dooley

#### Nursery Attendant; Backup

April 15.....Angela Duncan; Lara King

April 22.....Glenda Rives, Sabrina Collins

#### Wednesday Evening - April 18, 2018

Prayer/Announcements.....Bill Collins

Song Leader.....Tom Fair

Devotional.....Andy Duncan

### 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

ANDY DUNCAN.....(662) 416-2222

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

### Deacons

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

BUILDING/GROUNDS

BYRON MADISON.....(601) 227-1374

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 28

Sunday Morning Worship 70

Sunday Evening Worship 20

Wednesday Bible Study \*

### Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,454.00

Pine Vale Special 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday \$

### Daily Bible Readers

April 8, 2018 18 = 25.71% of attending

\*Figures Unavailable



April 15, 2018

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

## Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone?

In 1693, Thomas Shepherd wrote the song entitled, "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone." Two of the verses of that song read as follows:

*Must Jesus bear the cross alone, And all the world go free?*

*No, there's a cross for everyone, And there's a cross for me.*

*The consecrated cross I'll bear, Till he shall set me free,*

*And then go home to wear, For there's a crown for me.*

I like that song for several reasons, but one is that it teaches one's cross comes before one's crown." That fundamental truth seems to have been lost to many people, for how often do you hear of people giving up and quitting when difficulty arises?

How often have you heard of preachers who quit preaching, elders who quit shepherding, deacons who quit serving, Bible teachers who quit teaching, and Christians who quit following Jesus because of some difficult circumstance? It happens far too frequently than it should. Let someone hurt one's feelings and he quits. Let someone criticize one's work, and he quits. Let someone forget to thank one for his work, and he quits.

The common thread that runs through all of these situations is that someone has forgotten that one must bear a cross before he is privileged to wear a crown! Don't lose sight of this truth. Work comes before rest. Sacrifice comes before reward. Struggle comes before victory. And humility comes before exaltation (2 Cor. 4:17).

So what about you? Are you bearing your cross in this life, or are you spending your time kicked back, daydreaming about how your crown is going to fit? Let's get to work. There's much to do. We have a cross to bear. Or, must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

Steve Higginbotham preaches for the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville, TN.

He may be contacted through the congregation's website at <http://www.karnschurch.org>

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