

Privileged to Serve

SpeakerRay Reynolds
 Announcements/Prayer.....Lamar King
 Song Leader..... Andy Duncan
 Attendance..... Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening PrayerByron Madison
 Lord's Supper

Presiding

* Randy Rives

Assisting

Al St. Clair * * Jacob King
 Lloyd Smith * * Jared Agan

Closing Prayer.....Jack Mears

Evening

Opening PrayerRandy Rives

Lord's Supper

Al St. Clair * * Jacob King

Closing Prayer..... Andy Duncan

Communion Preparation

Month of July.....Sara "Kitty" Dooley

Month of August.....Linda Bullock

Nursery Attendant; Backup

July 7 Katie Agan; Angela Duncan

July 14 Angela Duncan; Lara King

Wednesday Evening - July 10, 2019

Prayer/Announcements..... Al St. Clair

Song Leader..... Andy Duncan

Devotional.....Charles Dooley

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

Works Supported

Robert Martin

Stacey Ferguson

South Pacific Missions

Pine Vale Children's Home

Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class 24

Sunday Morning Worship 55

Sunday Evening Worship 27

Wednesday Bible Study 27

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,951.00

Daily Bible Readers

June 30, 2019 * = % of attending

*Figures Unavailable



July 7, 2019

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

The Holy Spirit Re-Creates God's People

As I mentioned previously, the Bible has much to say about the Holy Spirit and His work. It is amazing how the Bible reveals that He loves us so much, and is so intimately involved with our personal lives. It is astounding that the God of the universe is interested in you and me. He is aware of what we are doing, what we are capable of doing, and what we've neglected to do in our lives.

When you look at the stars in the sky, or the sand on the beach, or the nations on the earth, do you ever wonder how God could find you? How could He care about us? How can He count the hairs on our heads? How can He guide me to do His will? And, why would He want to, given the fact that my track record in this world is tainted and my past is checkered?

Paul explains, "He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). Jesus had already hinted of this work in His teaching to Nicodemus (John 3:3-8). The Bible says that we are spiritually dead in our trespasses, but by His grace He made us alive in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-5, 4:5). Basically, we are re-created to walk in a new life. It is called being born again, born anew, or born from above. It is a second birth that will help us to avoid the second death.

There is no doubt that the Holy Spirit re-creates us through baptism (a death, burial, and resurrection – Romans 6:1-4). This was what Peter taught at Pentecost (Acts 2:38-39) and it is taught throughout the New Testament (I Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:26-27). What happens to us in this new birth? First, we are literally placed into Christ, and spiritually united as one with Him (Ephesians 4:3-6). Second, we are placed in the "body" of Christ, which is the church (Colossians 1:18).

At this point we should notice that there is often some confusion about the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit that takes place at Christian baptism, and the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit (which also is a kind of baptism) that was a part of the work of the early church. If you are confused, please know that you are not alone. Paul encountered some individuals in Ephesus who were confused about the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-7).

If you are confused, here are some questions you should ask about the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: What did Jesus say (Acts 1:4-5, 8)? What did John the Baptist say (Luke 3:16)? What did Luke say (Luke 24:47, Acts 1:6-8, 2:1-4)? What did the people on Pentecost say (Acts 2:11)? What did Peter say (Acts 2:16-17)? Go back and consider what Joel prophesied and see how it was fulfilled (Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:17-21). This was the promise of the Father (Acts 2:32-33), but it is NOT the same as the baptism for salvation (Acts 2:38-39). One was temporary (miraculous) and one was eternal (washing of regeneration). We will study more on that next week. ♦ Ray Reynolds ♦

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