

Privileged to Serve

Speakera.m.: B Madison; p.m.: D Callens
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives
 Song Leader..... Randy Rives
 Attendance..... Terry Dyer/Jacob King

Morning

Scripture/Opening PrayerByron Madison
 Lord's Supper

Dwight Callens *
 Lloyd Smith *
 Dick Vinson
 Jacob King

Closing Prayer.....Jack Mears

Evening

Opening PrayerByron Madison
 Lord's Supper

Dwight Callens *
 Lloyd Smith *

Closing Prayer..... Rob Warren

Communion Preparation

Month of MarchAngela Duncan
 Month of April Kathy St. Clair

Nursery Attendant; Backup

March 1Glenda Rives; Brandie Madison
 March 8.....Lara King; Katie Agan

Wednesday Evening - March 4, 2020

Prayer/Announcements.....Byron Madison
 Song Leader..... Tom Fair
 Devotional..... Rob Warren

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	33
Sunday Morning Worship	64
Sunday Evening Worship	*
Wednesday Bible Study	23

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 2,135.25

Daily Bible Readers

February 23, 2020 * = % of attending

*Figures Unavailable



March 1, 2020

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

"THE BACK OF THE BOOK"

Reading a book for pleasure is a pastime for many people. Generally, most people appreciate a good, complex plot. Therefore, with consideration to my previous affirmations, people usually begin at the front and work their way to the back of the book, recognizing the building of the plot (and subplots), the climax and the unraveling or resolution of the plot. It is generally unacceptable to move straight to the back of the book and read the end of the book. It is even considered rude to do that and then tell other people how the book ends.

This brings me to a refreshing conversation I had with a friend about the death of one of her loved ones. Being serious, but humorous all at once, she said, "I read the back of the book and it says I'm gonna be a winner!" I knew exactly what she was talking about and I knew that it was entirely acceptable for her to give away the ending of "the book"—the Bible.

The "back of the book," of course, is the book of Revelation. It is a book filled with symbols and references that seem strange to those who attempt to understand every minute detail of it. Whether one has read the entirety of the scriptures or not, they know that the Bible follows mankind from creation to sin, to the crucifixion of Jesus and his resurrection. They also know there are instructions for living once a person has determined and begun to follow Jesus. Revelation then, is the logical conclusion to all that comes before it. As a friend of mine said in a sermon many years ago, the simple summation of the book is the phrase, "We win."

In each of the letters to the seven churches of Asia, reference is made to the one who "overcomes" (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21). Those of that time who remained loyal to Christ (even if it meant their physical death, Revelation 2:10) would receive the reward of eternal life with God.

In a very vivid scene describing the persecution of the followers of God throughout the ages of mankind, the ones who "conquered" (in ESV, "overcame" in some translations) are said to have done so "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11). In other words, they were saved by the blood of Jesus and were faithful to him until their deaths.

As Revelation ends, those who were opposed to God were cast into the lake of fire (21:8) and those who were faithful to the Lord were/are residents of the eternal Jerusalem (22:3-5). Whether one follows the plot all the way through, or someone blurts out the ending, a faithful Christian, is indeed, "gonna be a winner!" That is good news!

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