

Privileged to Serve

Speaker ... Andy Duncan (am); Tom Fair (pm)
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives
 Song Leader..... Tom F. (am); Andy D. (pm)
 Attendance.....

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer
 Lord's Supper Randy Rives

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Closing Prayer.....

Evening

Opening Prayer
 Lord's Supper

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Closing Prayer.....

Communion Preparation

Month of July.....
 Month of August.....

Nursery Attendant; Backup

July 18..... Glenda Rives; Brandie Madison
 July 25..... Lara King; Katie Agan

Wednesday Evening - July 21, 2021

Prayer/Announcements.....
 Song Leader.....
 Devotional.....

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

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	cancelled
Sunday Morning Worship	35
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	9
Sunday Evening Worship	17
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	5

Wednesday Bible Study 13

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ _1,892.00

*Figures Unavailable



July 18, 2021

Meridian Messenger

Welcome Visitors!

HEAVEN

HOME OF THE REDEEMED!

Earth is a wonderful place in which to live. It was created by God especially for the benefit and comfort of man. It is a place of great beauty and immense resources. However, we have many serious problems; not because God failed in any way, but man has made a mess of what God has provided. The tension between some nations is at the brink of war and, in some cases, there is open conflict. Hundreds of thousands of people are being summarily exterminated by their cruel and autocratic rulers. Serious social upheaval is taking place in America today. A homosexual "alternative lifestyle" is being openly approved and even legalized in some states. The Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision of 1973 has greatly impacted many people's view of the sanctity of human life. Profanity, vulgarity, and immorality are approvingly portrayed on television and the printed page. The institution of marriage and the home is severely challenged by a lack of commitment and the obtaining of easy divorce. Terrorism, murder, and trafficking in human slavery seem to be ever-growing problems. The situation doesn't seem to be improving either, in spite of the advances in technology, science, and human knowledge.

Is the human race doomed forever to this endless cycle of despair and hopelessness? Are we locked in a never-ending situation from which there is no escape? Heaven's resounding response is "NO!" The Christian life offers joy, happiness, and eternal hope to those who surrender their lives to the Lord.

Near the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, His disciples appeared to have become discouraged because the Lord's popularity was waning. There was ever-growing animosity toward Him that would eventually end with His crucifixion. The apostles were confused and uncertain because their perception of the mission of the Messiah was that of a victor and not a victim. What message would give them a positive hope in the shadow of the cross? It was the promise that Christ would leave them for a while and prepare a place for them and that He would return to take them where He was (Jn. 14:1-3).

In like manner, when Christians were being severely persecuted in the first century it was the hope of Heaven that was used to encourage their faithfulness in the face of adversity (Rev. 21-22). That same appeal encourages Christians in every century. The hope of Heaven is also used to admonish the lost to prepare for a better place than what is offered by the world. Through obedience to the gospel of Christ, man can be freed from the bondage of sin while living on earth and be rescued from its eternal bondage in Hell. He can enjoy the bliss and beauty of Heaven forever.

A consideration of Heaven prompts several questions. One is, where is it? Heaven is not a renovated earth. The patriarchs looked for a home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (Heb. 11:10, 16). When Jesus ascended into heaven and sat down at His Father's right hand (Acts 1:9-11), ... (continued inside)

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