

**Privileged to Serve**

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

**Morning**

Scripture/Opening Prayer ..... TBA  
 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 September .....  
 Month of October .....

**Nursery Attendant; Backup**

September 5 ..... Angela Duncan; Lara King  
 September 12 Glenda Rives; Brandie Madison

**Wednesday Evening - September 8, 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	34
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	6
Sunday Evening Worship	13
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	7

Wednesday Bible Study \*

**Contributions & Other Income**

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,589.00

\*Figures Unavailable



*September 5, 2021*    *Meridian Messenger*    *Welcome Visitors!*

**THE CHRISTIAN GRACES ♠ part 2**

**“ADD TO YOUR FAITH VIRTUE”**

Introduction: If we would be “partakers of the divine nature,” we must not only have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust, but we must give diligence (“exert tremendous effort”) to add to our faith seven spiritual characteristics, or graces, the first of which is “virtue”. But what is “virtue”? While the word “virtue” may sometime mean “moral excellence”, that meaning hardly seems to fit, here. “Virtue” here is distinguished from such characteristics as “godliness”, “brotherly kindness” and “charity”. But “moral excellence” would doubtless include these characteristics. On the other hand, there are good and sufficient reasons for understanding the word to mean “moral courage”. First, the Greek word translated “virtue” is derived from “ares”, a military term given by the Greeks, as a personal name, to their god of war, suggesting the concept of courage. Second, the English word, “virtue,” was derived from the Latin “virtus”, meaning “manhood”, which also suggests courage. Third, it seems natural that, in a list of spiritual traits, moral courage would immediately follow faith (1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:10-17). Fourth, moral courage is surely the basic quality of Christian manhood, for, unless one has the courage of his convictions, he will not act on them.

**DEMANDS FOR VIRTUE**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. Fearing God (Matthew 10:28)             | F. Giving a reason for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15) |
| B. Confessing Christ (Matthew 10:32,33)    | F. Contending for the faith (Jude 3)                         |
| C. Withstanding temptation (1 Peter 5:8-9) | G. Living godly (2 Timothy 3:12)                             |
| D. Confessing our sins (James 5:16)        |  |
| E. Rebuking sin (Luke 17:3)                |  |

**EXAMPLES OF VIRTUE**

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| A. Moses (Hebrews 11:24-27)                       | C. Daniel (Daniel 6:1-10)         |
| B. Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego (Daniel 3:16-18) | D. Stephen (Acts 6:8-12; 7:51-53) |
| C. Stephen (Acts 6:8-12; 7:51-53)                 | E. Paul (Acts 20:18-24; 21:10-13) |

**RESULTS OF VIRTUE**

- A. Others will see that we are sincere. Illustration: “Our pottery is sin cere” (i.e., “without wax” – wax melts when it gets hot)  
 B. We will be “faithful unto death” (Revelation 2:10).

**Conclusion:** Let us have the courage to do what God would have us to do, regardless of the physical consequences we may face (Philippians 1:27,28).  
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