

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 November .....	
Month of December .....	
Nursery Attendant; Backup	
November 21 .....	Katie Agan; Angela Duncan
November 28 .....	Angela Duncan; Lara King
Wednesday Evening – November 24, 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	36
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	6
Sunday Evening Worship	no service
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	no service
Wednesday Bible Study	13
Contributions & Other Income	
Contribution Last Week	\$ 1,559.00
*Figures Unavailable	



November 21, 2021 ~ Meridian Messenger ~ Welcome Visitors!  
**BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**  
 MM Readers' ASK: Cecil May RESPONDS

**QUESTION:**  
*What is your favorite verse of Scripture?* (D.D.)

**Response:** A difficult question to answer, because there are so many favorites, but here is one I have been meditating on lately:

*"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). The King James Version of the Bible, what Hugo McCord called "My mother's Bible," has, *"We love Him because He first loved us."* The context shows "Him" would refer to God, and the fact that it is in italics indicates it was not in the original Greek text but was supplied by the translators. So, the KJV translators took a general statement, *"We love because He first loved us,"* and made it more specific, *"We love Him (God) because He first loved us."*

The more specific statement is true, of course. Our love for God, both Father and Son, is motivated and inspired by Their love for us, in the Father's sacrifice of His Son on the cross. Jesus says, *"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself"* (John 12:32). The next verse (12:33) explains, *"He said this to show by what kind of death He was to die."* To paraphrase, Jesus is saying, "If I die on the cross, that sacrifice, that evidence of my and the Father's love, will cause many to believe in and love me." Also, Paul says, *"The love of Christ controls us"* (1 Corinthians 5:1-4).

However, the more general statement, without the "Him" is also true. *"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"* (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit-inspired gospel of the love and grace of God has been proclaimed to us and we have received and believed it. Thereby, we have learned of a new kind of love, biblical agape' love, love *"as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her"* (Ephesians 5:25). That is a self-sacrificial love, a love that is a matter of will rather than of feeling. Remember, *"Christ died for the ungodly"* (Romans 5:6), and *"God shows His love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). So, Jesus commands us, *"Love your enemies"* (Matthew 5:44). "Love" in all those passages is agape', the love with which...-continued inside-