

**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 December .....  
 Month of January.....

**Nursery Attendant; Backup**

December 26 .....  
 January 2.....

**Wednesday Evening – December 29, 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	33
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	10
Sunday Evening Worship	9
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	11

Wednesday Bible Study 14

**Contributions & Other Income**

Contribution Last Week \$ .00\*

\*Figures Unavailable



*December 26, 2021*      *Meridian Messenger*      *Welcome Visitors!*

**Life-Tested Advice on**

**How to Have a Happy & Contented Life**

How many truly happy people do you know? Are you happy? Do you have steadfast joy and inner peace, even in troublesome times? God wants us to be happy! He gave us Jesus so that we could “have life and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Paul asserts that real joy is found only “in the Lord,” He says, “Rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil. 4:4). He adds that if we commit everything to God, we can have “the peace of God that passes all understanding” (Phil. 4:7). In Ecclesiastes, God tells us how to have a happy life.

After a life of wealth, power, and self-indulgence, Solomon hated life. He says, “Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . .

I looked at everything done under the sun and saw that it is all vanity like chasing after the wind” (1:2, 14). In addition, he says, “I decided that the dead are better off than the living. But those who have never been born are better off still” (4:2-3).

So, Solomon found life wearisome and boring (1:8). He looked for something “new” and longed for change (1:4-11). It is a consequence of sin that God made life hard (Genesis 3:16-19). Solomon wanted to change that. His lifestyle indicates that he also wanted to change some of God’s rules on how to live. Without question, some change is needed. Humanity’s sin-cursed nature needs changing. But, God and only God can redeem us and change us into new creatures in response to obedient faith (Romans 6:4-18; 2 Cor. 5:17). Everything that contradicts God and the Bible needs to be changed. Man cannot change what God has decreed, and we should not even try (6:10-11; 7:13-14).

Like most of us, what Solomon needed was to change himself: his attitude, his way of living, and his relationship with God. He needed to get over himself and listen to God. He needed to submit to God in obedience, rather than try to speak to God and tell Him how things ought to be (5:2-3). By the way, we need to do all this, too!

Our times are marked by change, or what some call “paradigm shifts.” Masses want to change marriage from the biblical plan of “one man and one woman until death.” So, we are witnessing group marriages, throw-away marriages, same-sex marriages, and just living together without marriage.

Some government agencies and educators want to change the words “husband,” and “wife” to “life partner” or “significant other.” Some advocate changing “mother” to “birth person” and change “male,” and “female” to “person.” They say the old terms are discriminatory. They want to do away with everything that distinguishes between males and females. We are told “it’s discriminatory” to distinguish people by sex— even on a baby’s birth certificate.

Even little children are being encouraged to question their gender, choose their own gender, and even go through sex change. Adults are demanding and going through “gender change.” Even some who profess to be members of Christ’s church are pushing to change “our teaching on certain issues like baptism” and to change “how we worship”—“so we will have a greater appeal.”

*~continued inside~*