



MERIDIAN CHURCH

September 2018 Meridian Life Letter

by Josh King

Meridian Church,

Life Groups are rebooting. Some are enjoying the new cry and training rooms. New directional signs have been put up. We've enjoyed having several new guests with us during our worship gatherings. But above all these new blessings, is the old one of the crucified and risen Christ we gather to celebrate every Lord's day. Praise be to God for the unity we have in the faith.

Membership

The elders will be bringing some matters of church discipline before the body. Please ask one of the elders for details.

Mick and Michelle Davis and Cody Stapp desire to covenant as members of this body. You can find their testimonies attached. Concerning them:

The elders recommend that Mick and Michelle Davis and Cody Stapp be welcomed into full fellowship with this body.

Preaching

After studying another handful of Psalms we will begin a study of the book of Galatians. Jeremiah and a study of the covenants are planned to follow these series.

Following our fellowship meals in September, October, and November, David Burks will be preaching through the third chapter of John.

Building and Grounds

In the last letter we informed you about some cracks we noticed in the parking lot. We consulted B&T paving since then. They believe we would be fine to wait another winter and have the parking lot repaired and resealed next fall. Over summer any new cracks will have swelled so that they can be repaired in the fall, and the cooler temperatures allow the seal to set better. Total cost is estimated at \$3000.

Finances

In October the elders and deacons will be meeting to put together a proposed budget for 2019. This will be made available by November for you to review and brought before you for approval at our December family business meeting. Please let us know of any items you would like for us to consider for next year's budget.

Christ-Centered Churches Conference

The Christ-Centered Churches Conference will be October 5th–6th at Christ's Fellowship Church in Lawton. This year the theme will be *The Glory of Christ in His Church*. You can learn more about the conference and register for it at www.christ-centered.church.

Grace and Peace,

Josh

Michael Paul (Mick) Davis' Testimony of Faith

In 1997 I attended a men's Bible study on a hot summer Thursday night. The Bible study was led by Preston Burns. Preston served as deacon at Gatlin Baptist Church at the time. That night I walked outside by myself and stood between two pickups in the parking lot and called on the name of the Lord. For the first time ever in my life that evening I agreed with God about my sin.

I believe with all my heart that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that He is God Himself in the second Person of the Trinity and that through Him all things were created and are sustained unto this very day. I believe He was conceived of a virgin by the Holy Spirit of God the third Person of the Holy Trinity. Having taken on the form of man, I believe He lived a perfect righteous life as He faced and overcame every form of temptation to sin that exist in creation. I believe He gave Himself on the cross to pay my sin debt and satisfy the wrath of God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity.

King Jesus was both Priest and Sacrifice and spilt out His own blood on the mercy seat in the third heaven so that I might be justified. After three days dead in the ground God the Father sent His Spirit to that tomb and by His power He raised King Jesus from the dead proving that the Father has accepted His blood sacrifice as a substitute for me. Because of this work accomplished by my Lord, the Father has called me righteous.

I believe King Jesus, after He had shown Himself to many witnesses for many days, was taken up into the third heaven and seated at the right hand of God where He ever lives to make intercession for me and so His ministry in my life continues today.

The Holy Spirit now indwells me and comes along side me in His ministry. He the Spirit reveals His Truth to me, protects me, rebukes me, encourages me, reminds me of all the things He has done for me, and carries out the will and purposes of the Father in my life.

God in all three Persons is both my God and my friend. He is my adopted father. He owns me and He has made me own Him as my God. I am His possession and His love for me is overwhelming and great. He has made me a joint heir with Christ and has immersed me into Christ Jesus as a part of His Church. He has called me His bride.

If I were to leave this Earth this very moment I would immediately be with the Lord in heaven worshipping Him forever. He has saved me and I love Him.

Michelle Davis' Testimony of Faith

I grew up in a home where the fear of Lord was absent. I was not raised in church or to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. I grew up having unbiblical ways of thinking and patterns of life. Like the world I believed truth was relative and the Bible was a good book with stories about good people with morals. As long as you were sincere, worked hard, and didn't intentionally bring harm to others, God would see that deep down you were really a good person despite of your mistakes and allow you into heaven if there really was such a place.

As a young wife and mother, through God's providence, I was invited to church and heard for the first time the truth of God's word which went against everything I believed. Empty and broken I cried out to Him one evening, begging for the struggle in my heart to cease, confessing I knew nothing and could do nothing on my own and asked God that if He was real and what the Bible says is truth, to please reveal it to me. God answered my prayer and as the blind man I would have to admit that I knew nothing about this man (Jesus) but all I could say it that "I was blind and now I see."

Over the years God has continued to reveal Himself to me by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, I have confidence that whom I have believed is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. The story of the virgin birth I heard about as a child is actually the account of the day my redeemer willingly came to this earth, as promised, to die as the sacrifice for my sin reconciling me to God the Father and rising from the dead that I may have eternal life. The Bible is not just a good book, it is the inerrant, authoritative Word of God and is God breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. I was not really a good person deep down, but once a child of wrath an enemy of God. I have nothing to offer God on my own and without the gift of saving faith I would spend eternity in a real place called hell, but instead I will live forever with the saints in The Kingdom of Heaven.

Cody Stapp's Testimony of Faith

At the outset, my prayer is that this testimony is to the glory of God alone in the salvation of such a wretched man as myself. My conversion has brought truth to the words of Jonathan Edwards, " You contributed nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary."

I was in church at an early age and attended church camps regularly. I was young when I walked down the aisle and said the sinner's prayer then accepted Jesus into my heart... or that's what I was taught at least. Growing up I was saturated in this false ideology of the god that American culture had created. I was a Christian in talk only and the worst of hypocrites. It wasn't until I came home from the war in Afghanistan that I started asking questions for myself. One day I came across the preaching of David Platt while I was at work and could not get enough! Then I started going to God's Word in the Old Testament and when I came across the standards and procedures for the Tabernacle, God had mercy on me. I realized that nothing I could ever do would cleanse me of my sin and before God I would receive the just punishment of hell on the day prepared. At that moment the Gospel and the reigning, righteous Champion and King Jesus Christ made sense. I have repented and believe that Jesus Christ alone paid the full price of God's justice that I deserved. Since then God has transformed every aspect of my life and I put my trust in him. I want the True God! I want others to want the True God too! Praise God!