

**Last Sunday's Record - May 16, 2021**

Offering: \$19,654.79  
Sunday School: 226

**January 1, 2021**

Requirements: \$529,615.40  
Receipts: \$595,118.19

**Deacon of the Week**

5/16 - Jim Williamson  
5/23 - John Anderson, Sr.  
5/30 - Tommy Cason

**Deacon's Breakfast**

**Sunday, May 23**

8:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

**Sermon for May 23**

*"How Firm a Foundation"*  
Exodus 20:3

*Senior Adult Prayer Meeting, Bible Study and Luncheon will suspend for two weeks. See you all back again on Wednesday, June 2! No new reservations are necessary.*

**VOLUNTEER MINISTRY - May 23**

**Preschool Extended Session**

Reed and Priscilla Scarbrough

**Launch**

James and Donna May

**Greeters**

Lydia Sanders Carolyn Hodgins  
Jena Sims Susan Hill

**Worship Welcomers**

Diane Fairbanks David and Kathy Stehle

**Security - Team 4**

Van Goodman, Landry Adkins, Davis Miller,  
Michael Thompson, Greg Monsour

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, May 23**

9:15 - Sunday School  
10:30 - Morning Worship

**WEDNESDAY, May 26**

6:00 - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal and Supper



**VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

*Call Caitlin if you would like to help.*  
We have openings for:  
Classroom Helpers  
Rotation Leaders  
Snacks (children and teachers)

**USHERS FOR MAY**

Tommy Cason, Leonard Cobb, Chris Dean, Van Goodman,  
J.B. Griffith, Alan Lamar, Jim Lauderdale, Ben Leake,  
Joey Mabry, Davis Miller, Greg Monsour,  
Freddie Poitevent, Larry Roberts, Brad Sykes,  
Gary Wilkinson, Jim Williamson

*Dr. Nathan VanHorn, Pastor*  
*Rev. David Bishop, Associate Pastor for Music*  
*Zach DePriest, Minister of Youth Caitlin Braud, Director of Children's Ministries*  
*Dr. Raymon Leake, Pastor Emeritus*  
*Rev. David McCubbin, Associate Pastor Emeritus*  
701 26th Avenue Meridian, MS 39301 601.484.4600 [www.fbcmeridian.org](http://www.fbcmeridian.org)



**THE MESSENGER**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MERIDIAN

MAY 23, 2021

VOLUME 93, NUMBER 21

AND GOD SPOKE ALL THESE WORDS:

"I AM  
THE LORD YOUR GOD,  
WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF EGYPT  
OUT OF THE LAND OF SLAVERY  
YOU SHALL HAVE  
NO OTHER GODS  
before me."

EXODUS 20:1-3



## Church Family,

Last Sunday, we began a new sermon series on

the Ten Commandments. This series emerged from a question I received years ago from an unbelieving friend: “Why do so many churches have a copy of the Ten Commandments by their sanctuary?” When I asked him to expound on his question, he said that Christians were supposed to be a people of love and grace. By that logic, he said, our symbol should be the cross of Christ or the empty tomb; by his thinking, Christians should not desire to have their faith symbolized by a list of rules, right?

I have given his questions much thought, study, and prayer. Is grace *really* the antithesis of the Law? If so, why does Paul—the apostle of GRACE—refer to the Law and commandments as “holy, just, and good” (Romans 7:12)? Are God’s commandments *really* just a cold list of rules? If so, why does God remind His people what He had done for them already *before* telling them what they should do (Exodus 20:1-2)? Should Christians *really* move on from the Ten Commandments? Though this question requires some nuance, it’s interesting that Jesus presents Himself as the Law’s *fulfillment* rather than *nullification* (Matthew 5:17-20; see also Romans 10:4). Notice how Paul frames his famous statement on the fruit of the Spirit: “For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *There is no Law against these things*” (Galatians 5:22-23).



Personally, I have come to understand that God’s Laws were offered to His people as a measure of grace. He called them to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-6). But there was a major problem: they didn’t know how to live as Israelites—they only knew how to live as Egyptians!

Remember that whole golden calf incident? So, as we discussed in last week’s message, God gives His people the Law and its commandments:

**1) in a context of redemption**

(as I like to say—“*God did not give the Law to bind his people; He gave the Law right after He set His people free!*”)

**2) as an expression of His unchanging character and plans for His people, and**

**3) as a signpost to His ultimate redemptive work in Christ**

There’s a lot to unpack in those claims, so I hope you will join us—at Mt. Sinai, at Mt. Calvary, and in worship—as we take that journey together. If you do, I am convinced you will be comforted, convicted, and challenged by the God who does not change but, by His grace, changes us.

*God bless you.*

*Nathan VanHorn*



## Memorials...

### Missions and Ministry

In memory of: Jack Follis  
Lowry Rush (*Jill Williams’ father*)

### Benevolence

In memory of: Jack Follis

### Music

In memory of: Movalene Griffin  
(*Amy Presley’s grandmother*)

### The Baptist Children’s Village

In memory of: Jack Jackson



## LADIES BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

ⓐ 6:00 P.M.

AT THE HOME OF  
KRISTEN HILL

*Many of us have lives that are full. We have full bellies, full closets, full calendars, full trash cans, full purses and full email inboxes. But at the end of the day, we are empty. God made us all with a built in desire to find the meaning to life and to spend time on things that are meaningful. Join us for a summer Bible study to do just that!*

**Sign up in the Welcome Center, call the church office, or call or text Kristen (601.678.1505) to let her know that you are coming by May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## The Disciple’s Study Calendar

**Week 22 - (May 24—28) John 15**

*Sunday School Lesson for May 30*



## PHOTOGRAPHY APPOINTMENTS

are available for our in-house Pictorial Directory on Wednesdays and Sundays. Please call the church office (601.484.4600) or sign up on the sheets at the Welcome Center Counter.