

Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."¹ Although we are not literally in heaven, we have been placed, as believers in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). As we set our aim of *Lifting Christ Higher*, focusing on Heaven, and seeking to continually draw nearer to Jesus, then we will begin to comprehend those "heavenly places" as more of a reality than just some words on a page.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for choosing Meridian as the place for you to give honor and praise to our wonderful Savior on this Lord's Day. We trust that you will come to know and understand more fully the relationship you can have in Jesus Christ.

¹ Webster's New World Dictionary, ©1971.

Meridian Online



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Sermon notes

Examples of Grace in the Bible Esther Esther 2:1-17

God's grace can come to us through some unusual and unexpected circumstances.

1. The Opportunity for grace can come from the failure of another.

A. The Frustration of an unsubmitive Queen

The failure of Vashti, the previous queen opens a place of authority that becomes vacant out of the providence of God so that He can demonstrate His grace for a person who can be used mightily.

B. The Humiliation of a godless King

The failure of Xerxes led him to long for a new queen to calm his humbled heart.

God is sovereign and can control even evil men for His glory.

Proverbs 21:1

The failures of humans on this earth are not obstacles to God's plans but rather provide opportunities of grace.

2. The Obtaining of grace does not come from ourselves, but in spite of ourselves.

Mordecai and Esther were unlikely recipients of God's grace for several reasons.

- They chose to stay behind in Persia rather than return to Israel.
- They were imperfect in that they took on the ways of the Persians.

We should be thankful that God remains faithful, even when we are not faithful to Him.

This was not a fairytale that was coming true for Esther, but she found kindness.

Grace is totally God's effort.



January 19, 2025



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~ January 19, 2025 ~

*We extend a warm WELCOME!
If you are visiting today,
Connect Cards are available for you
to register as our special guest.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30am

MORNING WORSHIP 10:40am

Hymns – (Red) 308, 334, 330

Scripture Reading: Psalm 93

DEACONS MTG 4:30pm

EVENING SERVICE 6:00pm

**Ryan Kliewer – Saipan ministry update
Pastor Caleb 2 Timothy 2:3-7**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Young people ages 4 - 4th grade are invited to be dismissed before the sermon for age-related teaching.

THIS WEEK AT MERIDIAN

**Tue – 5:30-10:00PM – New Hope
Outreach**

**Wed – 6:30PM – Bible Seekers; Teen
Bible Study; Adult Bible Study and
Prayer**

Sat – 9:00AM – Meridian Mighty Men

BULLETIN BOARD NOTES

Please notice various Christmas cards, letters, and thank-you notes on the bulletin board.

LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN

**Feb 6 (Tue, 1PM) - Pastor Kliewer
departing on Mission trip**

**Feb 6 (Tue, 7PM) – Rescue Mission
Service (Tom Hummingbird)**

**Feb 16 (Sun, 6PM) – Valentine
Fellowship**

Feb 20 (Thur, 7PM) – Ladies Bible Study

NEW HOPE OUTREACH

New Hope is the local homeless shelter ministry in Newton. We are privileged to play a small part in supplying a hot meal and fellowship for the clients twice every six weeks. We could use a few more volunteers to either cook, serve, or minister in other ways. If you are not currently helping and would like to know more information, please see Becky Coffey.

UNCLAIMED DISHES

There are a few food containers on the ledge next to the church office. These have either been used to provide dinner for a church function or to provide food for a church family in their illness. If you have recently provided food in either of these instances, please check the counter and secure your belongings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

If the need for the cancellation of a service should arise, you may check one of the following sources:

- **MBC Home Page - www.mbcnewton.org**
- **MBC Facebook page**
- **MBC - Texting or Email**
- Text the word "Join" to 316-999-8857 to be included in this notification

2025 CALENDARS

BIEM has again provided some calendars featuring their ministries for your use. The calendars are located on the shelf below the bulletin board.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

The **December** Financial Report is available on the desk in the Church Office.

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

A significant benefit of our Pictorial Directory is that it helps people identify others with a picture. It also provides a location for contact information as well as birthdays and anniversaries. If you would like to be included in our directory, let Pastor Kliewer know.

Please note that the Pictorial Directory is separate from our text notifications.

SECRET PRAYER SISTERS

It is time to draw names for the 2025 Secret Sisters. Please meet in the sanctuary down in front after the morning service on **TODAY**. If you have not turned in your secret sister form to Peggy George, bring it with you to the meeting next Sunday.

NURSERY SCHEDULE

**Jan 19 – AM – Anna / Ramona
PM – Sarah / Elijah**

**Jan 26 – AM – Deidra / Karen M.
PM – Kathy / Ramona**