

## Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Webster's New World Dictionary, ©1971.

## Meridian Online



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## Sermon notes

### Examples of Grace in the Bible The Prodigal Son - 3 Luke 15:20-24; 31-32

**The parable of the prodigal son teaches us the boundless nature of grace.**

#### 5. Welcomeness in the Rebuilding of Grace (20-24; 31-32)

##### A. Grace demonstrated by Compassion – (20) Amazing Grace

The prodigal son is welcomed back with open arms.

**Isaiah 1:18; Psalm 86:5; Psalm 86:15; Psalm 116:5**

As much as sin can and will take us farther from God than we might imagine, grace reaches further and brings us back farther than we could imagine.

**Romans 5:20b**

##### B. Grace demonstrated by Compensation – (22-23) Abundant Grace

**He was not only Arrayed – he was Adorned**

The robe - honor

The ring - authority and sonship

The shoes - dignity of a free man

**He was not only Fed – he was Feasted**

Slaughtering the "fatted calf" was not an everyday occurrence.

**2 Corinthians 8:9; Romans 8:32; 9:23**

##### C. Grace demonstrated by Communication – (28, 31-32) Asserting Grace

The father went out to plead with the older son when he saw the son's rejection.

**The father is tender in his response.**

The term for "son" indicates a tender affection as from birth

**The father's response of grace is inspiring to those who need it.**



APRIL 6, 2025



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~ April 6, 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 – (Blue) 44, 16, 112

Scripture Reading: Psalm 23

**CHOIR REHEARSAL . . . . . 5:15pm**

**EVENING SERVICE . . . . . 6:00pm**  
***Singspiration & Testimonies***

#### 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

**Wed – 6:30PM – Bible Seekers; Adult Bible Study and Prayer**  
**Sat – 8AM – Church Workday**

#### EASTER BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to join us **Sunday, April 20 at 9:00AM** for a breakfast celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **A sign-up sheet for egg dishes and breads is located on the Hospitality Desk.** Please also sign-up to let us know how many are coming to help us in making preparations.

#### LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN

**Apr 13 (Sun, AM) – Communion**  
**Apr 14-15 (Mon, Tue – 7PM) – Baptist Heritage Conference @ Wheatland Baptist Church – McPherson**  
**Apr 17 (Thur, 7PM) – Ladies Bible Study**  
**Apr 20 (Sun, 9AM) – Easter Breakfast (NO Sunday School)**  
**Apr 26 (Sat, 9AM) – Meridian Mighty Men**  
**Apr 27 (Sun, 4:30PM) – Deacons mtg.**

#### SINGSPIRATION & TESTIMONIES

If you have a favorite song you would like for us to sing tonight from one of the hymnals, please indicate the following on the back of a Care/Share Card: **1. Circle the Hymnal Color; 2. Write down the Hymn Number; (limit ONE per person, please)** and place it in the offering plate. We will also give folks an opportunity to share a personal testimony.

#### CHURCHWIDE WORKDAY

Join us April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8AM for plenty of donuts and **plenty of work!** We need **anyone and everyone** to lend a hand regardless of talent, skill, or ability. Posted on the Hospitality Desk is a list of potential projects with space to **add your name** next to things you might be interested in working on. Thank you in advance for being involved in glorifying God with our wonderful facilities. We will plan to wrap up between noon & 1:00PM.

#### NURSERY SCHEDULE

**Apr 6 – AM – Daina / Peggy**  
**PM – Kathy / Deidra**  
  
**Apr 13 – AM – Ashley / Crystal**  
**PM – Sarah / Elijah**

#### BAPTIST HERITAGE CONFERENCE

Wheatland Baptist Church in McPherson is hosting a conference emphasizing the heritage of the Baptists in church history. Dr. Larry Oats, a professor from Maranatha Baptist University will be the lecturer. Mark your calendar for **April 14-15 (Monday-Tuesday)** beginning at **7PM** each night if you are interested.

#### READING MATERIAL

**(Hospitality Desk)**  
**-Frontline magazine – “The Self-Deception of Substance Abuse” (March / April issue).**  
**-Challenger** – Published by **Sam Slobodian of BIEM** Each issue focuses on various ministries of BIEM in Ukraine and Russia.  
**-Our Daily Bread** devotional books for a daily time with God in His Word.

#### GOODIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Traditionally, every year we endeavor to bless our college students with some goodies. This year we have Addison and Ashton Curis and Emily Schmidt, all studying at HCC. Items they may enjoy include chips, candy, gum, cookies, etc. If you would like to participate, bring items by **Sunday, April 20** and put them in the church office.

#### CHURCH LIBRARY

Our church library has been upgraded with the inclusion of some new titles for your reading pleasure and learning. You may check the books out yourself by writing your name on the card inside the book and filing it in the index box.