



THE MESSENGER

*"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." **1John 1:5***

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WELCOME VISITING FRIENDS

If you are one of our visitors today, please know that we are indeed honored to have you. If you are a member of the Lord's body, thanks for choosing to worship with us today. If you are not a member of the Lord's church, we would be happy to meet with you and discuss how one becomes a member of the church which we read about in the New Testament. We aim to speak as they spoke and do as they did. We also offer a free Bible correspondence course which can be mailed to you. Or, someone would be glad to meet with you for a one-on-one Bible Study. You can indi-

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship11 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

HEAR

Rom. 1;16;
10:17

BELIEVE

John 8:24

REPENT

Luke 13:3
Acts 3:19;

CONFESS

Rom 10:9-10
Matt. 10:32

BE BAPTIZED

Acts 2:38;
22:16

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Doing things “decently and in order.” (I Cor. 14:40)

Worshipping God is indeed the greatest privilege granted to man. Undeniably, it is the very purpose of our creation as the wisest man, Solomon, reminds us that our duty is to “...fear God and keep His commandments” (Ecc. 12:13). Lexham Theological Wordbook defines worship as “the awed response to the saving acts and praiseworthy character of God.” **Psalm 95:6** reinforces this thought in saying “Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker” along with **Psalm 116:12** “What shall I give to the Lord for His benefits toward me?”

Today, worship has become a time of entertainment for the worshippers, rather than pleasing God. As such, religious bodies are constantly seeking to innovate to make the worship more “attractive” to the attendees. But as they innovate, they also deviate even further from the scriptures. Whenever we begin to find scriptural worship to God as boring and out of touch, it is a clear sign that we have lost that respect and reverence for God and His words. We would all do well to remember His admonition through the prophet Isaiah, in **Isaiah 55:8-9** “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

There’s a story about a boy who, after attending church with his father one Sunday morning, and before getting into bed that evening, kneeled at his bedside and prayed, “Dear God, we had a good time at church today, but I wish you had been there.” The point is, unless God is the centerpiece of our worship, whatever we do will be deemed biblically indecent and out of order. **I Cor. 14:26** “How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” There was an atmosphere of disorderliness that had descended on the assembly of the Corinthian church that Paul sought to address. Each of these members, no doubt, claiming to be influenced by the Holy Spirit, was offering something to the worship service at the same time, resulting in chaos. The apostle informed them that “God is not the author of confusion” **I Cor. 14:33**, but that all things must be done orderly for God to be glorified and for edification to take place.

Worship service should never be based solely upon how one feels but equally, if not more importantly, what one knows. Jesus, in his discourse with the Samaritan at the well, instructed her that “God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (**John 4:24**).

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– R. Webster



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to silence your cell phones. 

D J Chaff graduated on Dec. 14 from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, with a major in Radio-Television and a minor in Communication Studies.



Bro. Hardy's uncle's funeral was on Dec, 20th. Please remember to keep Bro. Hardy in our prayers.

Sis. Serena Webster is home for the holidays. She'll be with us for two weeks.

There'll be no Bible Class for the next two weeks, as the center will be closed. Bible class will resume on January 8th.



There is a sign up list for the Ladies Day Committee at the back. Please review it to see if you may be interested in signing up to participate in our upcoming Ladies Day.

Our **2nd Anniversary** will be celebrated on January 26th after worship service. Details TBD. Please start inviting your friends and family to celebrate with us.

For Prayers:

Sis. Lydia Chaff and Rob Hardy, who recently lost loved ones. Serena Webster, who's in the military. **Also**, Ursula Ware, Nadia Hawks, Robert Davis, Rob Hardy's son, Robert. Lydia Chaff and her family.



Out of town this weekend:
Sis. Angela Williams
Bell Family

For Our College Students:
Paris Mickles: SIU,
Bria Gamble: Illinois State



Birthday This Week:
Cookie Thigpen - Dec. 28



Please submit **your announcements** to Bro. Webster by Thursday evening each week.



Order of Service

- Song
- Announcement
- Song
- Opening Prayer
- Song
- Scripture Reading
- Song
- Sermon
- Song
- Lord's Supper**
- Offering**
- Song
- Closing Prayer

Last Week's Record



Sun. AM Class	26
Sun. AM Worship	50
Wed. Bible Class	13

