

Sermon Notes



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 indicate your desire on a visitor's card and place it in the collection tray.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting
(Last Wed. each month @ 7 pm)

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

Be Sincere!

In **Joshua 24**, we find Joshua gathering all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and began giving them a history lesson on how God had been good to them and their forefathers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Moses and Aaron. Also, how God delivered them from the Egyptians after He sent the plagues on them. He also mentioned that God had delivered them from Balaak, the king of Moab, and from other heathen nations like Jericho, the Amorites, etc. And then God fulfilled His promise by bringing them into the land of Canaan (v. 13).

One would have thought that these people, having heard and experienced God's love and care for them, would be absolutely sincere in serving Him. But not so! In v. 14, Joshua said to them, "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!" There was a real lack of sincerity in their commitment to God in that, on one hand they appeared to be following God, but on the other, were still attached to the idols that their fathers served. There was a clarion call from Samuel to the people when he said, in **I Sam. 12:24** "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."

Our world today is in need of authenticity, not just in the products that we buy but more importantly, in the lives that we live and the words that we speak. Christ wants true representatives of the kingdom. Paul says "...we are ambassadors for Christ..." **II Cor. 5:20** and again he describes himself as "...an ambassador in chains..." **Eph. 6:20**. The Bible addresses this issue multiple times, which also serves to reinforce it as one that we must pay keen attention to. Merriam-Webster defines "authentic" as "worthy of acceptance" or "genuine." Finding lives worthy of acceptance was a real challenge in bible times, especially among the Jewish leaders. On more occasions than one, Jesus used strong language to describe them by calling them "hypocrites" (**Matt. 23:13, 14, 15**). While not all were hypocrites, there was, however, a culture of insincerity and falsehood among them "for they say, and do not do." **Matt. 23:3**.

Today, we must be genuine believers of the message of Christ that we share with people, or else we will be nothing more than modern day "Pharisees and scribes." A huge impediment to the gospel is one who merely pretends to be a disciple of Christ. At a time when trust and sincerity are becoming more and more obscure, God's children must prayerfully and humbly endeavor to be authentic.

Bro. R. Webster

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to silence your cell phones. 

Remember to check the Birthday/ Anniversary list at the back.

Thanks to everyone who made last Sunday's "Snack and Yak" a success.

Last Tuesday, Sis. Lydia Chaff lost another uncle, this follows the passing of her father and uncle within a week.

Sis. Pamela Lennon had a successful and expresses thanks for the prayers and thoughts from the church.

Bro. Simmons attended the funeral of his sister who passed away a week and half ago.

D J Chaff graduates this Saturday from Illinois State University.

Angelice Gisbon, AJ's daughter, rededicated her life to Christ 2 weeks ago. Please pray for her spiritual progress.

Sis. Kensey-Bridges and Micklosick are now worshipping with the Lansing congregation.

For Prayers for members who have lost loved ones:

Bro. Simmons, his eldest sister (He will be out of town this weekend) Bro. Arthur Davis, his nephew Sis. Lydia Chaff, her father and uncle

Brother Rob Hardy's uncle, who was sick for sometime, passed away last Thursday.



Also, Ursula Ware, Diane Kensey-Bridges, Erika Dockens, Clarence Harley, Ken Ware III, Nadia Hawks, Robert Davis, Rob Hardy's son, Robert.



Out of town this weekend:
Sis. Helen McGee

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

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	25
Sun. AM Worship	61
Wed. Bible Class	16