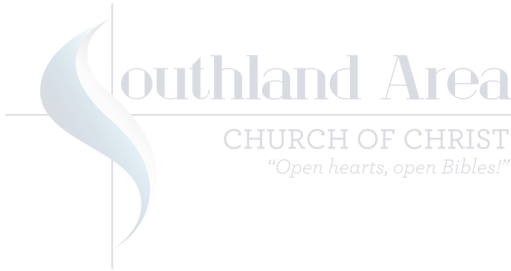


Topic:
Text:

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

Don't Fall Back!

A great tragedy that has befallen many brothers and sisters over the years is that of falling away. Falling out of favor with God is nothing new, for, since the time of Adam and Eve to this very day, many *"who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God"* (**Heb. 6:4**), are now victims of the snares of the devil. There are a plethora of passages that clearly teach about the risks of falling away, yet many seem to be oblivious to them. Paul said, *"Let him that thinks he stands, take heed lest he falls"* (**I Cor. 10:12**), and in reference to the Jews and their relationship with God, he said, *"...Because of unbelief, they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear"* (**Rom. 11:20**).

Every one of life's challenges has spiritual lessons designed to make us...not break us! This was one of the issues addressed in the epistle to the Christians in the book of Hebrews. They had been through much persecution for having renounced Judaism and embraced Christ as their Savior which incurred the wrath of their countrymen. The writer said in **Heb. 10:32, 33** *"But remember the former days, in which, after you were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings; partly, being exposed to both reproaches and oppressions; and partly, becoming partakers with those who were treated so."*

"Every one of life's challenges has spiritual lessons designed to make us...not break us!"

Notice that the writer brings to their remembrance what they had been through. Sometimes we need to do that because oftentimes we forget what God has done for us. No doubt, as we are inundated by the *"cares of this life"* (**Luke 21:34**), we forget the word of God from which our faith is derived and maintained (**Rom. 10:17**). The devil paints a deceptive picture in our minds that we are not blessed and that God has abandoned us and therefore the only "logical" alternative is to retreat into the world. Isn't it always true as the song says, *"count your many blessings...and it will surprise you what the Lord has done?"* All that we go through in this life should remind us that (a) this world is not our home, we are just passing through (**I Pet. 2:11-12**), (b) *"We must, through many tribulations, enter the kingdom of God."* **Acts 14:22**, (c) Overcoming what seem to be insurmountable hurdles will be a genuine reliance on our faith and trust in God. That's why we sing, *"Faith is the victory that overcomes the world."* (d) Heaven will surely be worth it all. The apostle exhorts us in **Rom. 8:18** saying *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

The point is, don't fall back, because the best is yet to come!

- R. Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to silence your cell phones. 

All members who need a tax donation letter, please text Bro. Webster at 708-752-5589.

There'll be a short members' meeting today immediately after worship re our anniversary celebration.

We meet this Wednesday for our midweek Bible class at 7 pm.

All brothers are invited to a special meeting tomorrow at the Simmons' home: 16 N Cottage Grove Ave, Glenwood. We begin promptly at 9:30 am

Our **2nd Anniversary** will be celebrated next week **January 26th** after worship service. There are flyers in the back to be handed out. Members have also been texted a digital copy that they are encouraged to share on social media. Still not sure what to bring? See Sis. Lydia Chaff.

For Prayers:

Sis. Trice of Lansing Church of Christ, who's been diagnosed with lung cancer.
Sis. Helen McGee and Debra Ellis.
Our military personnel.
Sis. Herschenia Brown and her son are battling the cold virus.
Sis. Angella Williams.

Also, Ursula Ware, Nadia Hawks, Robert Davis, Rob Hardy's son Paul.

Our College Students:

Paris Mickles: Southern Illinois University
Bria Gamble: Illinois State University
Angelice Gibson: Loyola University



Birthdays This Week:

Jarvis Mickles - Jan. 20
Sis. Linda Norman - Jan. 24
Bro. J.W. Kinds - Jan. 25



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	28
Sun. AM Worship	51
Wed. Bible Class	20