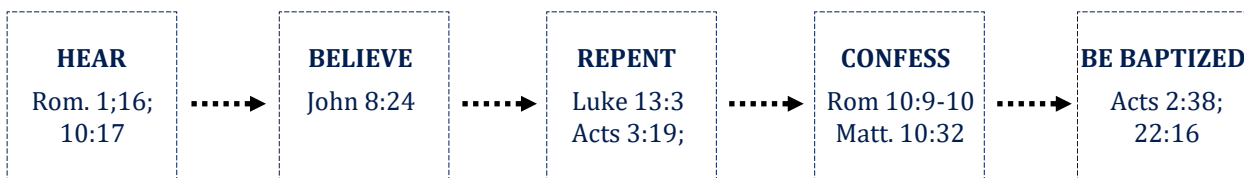


Topic:
Text:

Sermon Notes



WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



*"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 located at the front on the communion table.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Young Christians' Class10 a.m.
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.
Worship Service11 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalm 122:1*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Mordecai Would Not Bow!

Mordecai, the cousin, guardian, and surrogate father of Esther, has always been one of this writer’s favorite Bible characters. Not only is Mordecai an example of courage and great conviction, but an individual who knew how to read a difficult situation and respond to it with great wisdom. The scripture says, “After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him. And all the king’s servants who were within the king’s gate bowed and paid homage to Haman, for so the king had commanded concerning him. But Mordecai would not bow or pay homage” (Esther 3:1-2 – NKJV).

We might wonder why Mordecai did not bow or pay homage. After all, was not Haman was in a position of authority? Was he not a prince, promoted by the king? Did not the king decree that Haman should be shown honor? What would have been wrong in Mordecai bowing to this prince? Are we not told in Scripture to give honor to whom honor is due? (Romans 13:7). To properly answer these questions, we have to consider the original context. What Haman was demanding of the people here was not merely the justified honor to be paid to a civil authority figure. What he sought, from the perspective of Persian custom, was to be worshiped as deity. In a word, to be honored as a god. This Mordecai refused to do.

Mordecai’s action was not unlike that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, the three friends of Daniel who refused to bow to the image of himself that Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon erected. When the king threatened the three men with public immolation in a furnace if they did not comply with his order, the trio replied, “*O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up*” (Daniel 3:16-18 – NKJV).

We live in an age of compromise, of tolerance, of “going along with the crowd to get along.” Confronted with the dilemma Mordecai faced, many people in our world today would simply say, “*What would it matter just this once? I know Haman isn’t really a god, but if he wants to think so, and obeying his order will keep me in his good graces, what difference would it make?*” Mordecai refused. He would not compromise his faith even for a man with the authority to build a gallows and have him hung from it (Esther 5:14). As Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego told Nebuchadnezzar, “*If you’re going to throw us in the furnace for not bowing to your idol, go ahead, because we are not bowing,*” In essence, Mordecai’s action told Haman, “Hang me if you will, but I’ll not give you what belongs to my God.” How often are we guilty of bowing to the “gods” of this world? When we accept the world’s values without challenge, when we submit to common principles at the expense of holiness, when we set temporal things higher in our priorities than the things of Christ, are we not doing exactly what Mordecai refused to do?

Brethren, God’s people must be people of courage and conviction! When the world invites us to dine at its table, Christians must decline (1 Corinthians 10:21). Like Mordecai, let’s never be afraid to stand for the truth, always refusing to conform to the world (Romans 12:2).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember to silence your cell phones.

Everyone please be diligent in observing CDC guidelines regarding the virus. Masking up, sanitizing, and social distancing are critical to us being able to have in-person worship. Additionally, we encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

Everyone who got vaccinated is now encouraged to go and get a booster shot, it is the wise thing to do.

Please be reminded that no eating is allowed in the auditorium.

Please review the West Hammond Church of Christ website. If you have moved, changed your telephone or need to update any of demographics, please email or text Sis. Ruthie Gamble.

For Prayers :

Our military personnel.

Please keep Sis. Doris Davis and Debra Ellis in your prayers as they are both recovering from recent falls. Sis. Ruthie Gamble contracted the virus and is quarantined at home. Thankfully she is fully vaxed and boosted!

Please continue to pray for Kristopher Strickland, Laurene Cunningham, Sis. Pamela Lennon, Bro & Sis. Brantford, Brenda Sims, Bro. Paul Woodard, Laura Simpson, The Conner family, and Rob Hardy.

Our Young Adult Bible class is now being taught Bro. EJ Taylor every Sunday morning at 10 o’clock. Please encourage young people within your family and your friends to take advantage of this class as they come to worship service.

For those who give their offering via PayPal or

cash app, please be aware that a fee is charged by these companies. However, you can give via PayPal without a fee. Please call/text Bro. Webster to find out how.

Birthdays and Anniversaries this Week:
Birthday:- Sis. Laura Simpson -Jan. 9th

NO ANNIVERSARIES-

Skills Bank
Remember to submit your information, and do your own verification for licensing.

Sis. Webster.....Real Estate Agent

Gambles Property Preservation & Custom Home Décor

Sis. Debra WoodardFinancial Advisor

Order of Service

- Song
- Announcement
- Song
- Opening Prayer
- Song
- Scripture Reading
- Song
- Sermon
- Song

Last Week’s Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	87
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	45
Last Sunday offering:	\$2442.71
Weekly Budget	\$2625.00