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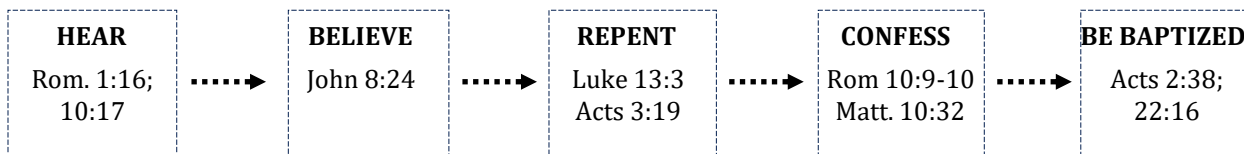
Sermon Notes



ORDER OF SERVICE

Song ~ Announcements ~ Song ~ Opening Prayer ~ Song ~ Scripture Reading ~ Song ~ Sermon ~ Song ~
Lord's Supper ~ Offering ~ Song ~ Closing Prayer

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?



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***


Volume 1


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Issue 1

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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

A Brand-New Year Means a Brand-New Start!

Is it not wonderful to know that we can all start afresh? Even when we have messed up, a new year gives us a chance to make a new start. In writing to the Philippian brethren in Phil. 3, Paul made them aware of the opportunity he was given to make a new start despite his past failures. However, one of the greatest barriers to making a new start is the horror of the past.

Failures, as well as successes, constantly haunts us until we are afraid to attempt anything new. Paul's strategy nonetheless was more focused on one thing: "... *forgetting those things which are behind.*" vs. 13. He was indeed conscious of the many failures and sins in his life. But there came the time when he owned up to his sins and, having confessed them and sought forgiveness, he began to focus on letting go of those things that impeded his relationship with God.

If we are going to live lives of holiness and success, we must, of necessity, forget all our past failures and disappointment by leaving them behind.

If we are going to live lives of holiness and success, we must, of necessity, forget all our past failures and disappointment by leaving them behind. Doing this though is not sufficient to motivate us to go forward. Paul says that he was reaching forth unto those things which were before, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (vs. 13-14). The ultimate prize of the "high calling of God in Christ Jesus" had become his number one priority. This "high calling" is also referred to as a "holy calling" (2 Tim. 1:9). While there are many "callings" or pursuits in life, none is greater than God calling us through His Son Christ Jesus. We are called through the gospel (2 Thess. 2:14) also, in Ephesians, Paul stresses that we are "**to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called**" (Ephesians 4:1). The word "walk" has to do with our daily behavior. We are also called to live with Him eternally. The Bible tells us that "If we suffer, ***we shall also reign with Him.***" (2 Timothy 2:12)

So, as we begin a new year, let us imitate Paul (Phil. 4:9) by refusing to be held hostage by our past failures and disappointments and instead make every effort to reach for the prize of the high calling of God. This is a tried and proven strategy given to us by the inspired apostle.

REMINDERS:

~Please silence your *cell phones*.

~**No eating** in the auditorium.

~Please be diligent in observing **CDC COVID-19 guidelines**.



Returning guest please **print** your name in the **Returning Guest Log** in the foyer.

There are **prayer request cards** and a **suggestion box** in the foyer.

The **Ladies' Ministry** will resume in the Spring of 2023.

Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

Theme: **Christian Women Living Courageously in a Spiritual Pandemic**

Date: April 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia. Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

Thanksgiving Service

Rob Hardy's mother, Robertine Hardy

Visitation: Fri. Jan. 6, 2023 - 6 to 8 p.m.

Wake: Sat. Jan. 7, 2023, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Funeral: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Burial: Glenwood Oaks Cemetery

Repass: Leaks Reception Hall

Leaks and Sons Funeral Home

18400 Pulaski Rd, Country Club Hills.

Thanksgiving Service

Bro. Fred Merriweather Sr.

Viewing: Fri. Jan. 6, 2023- 4-8 p.m.

Viewing: Sat. Jan. 7, 2023, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Funeral: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Chicago Heights Church of Christ 1446 Scott Ave

Chicago Heights, IL

FOR PRAYERS

Merriweather family, Goldman family, Young & Raglin families, Sis. Errika Williams, Hardy family, Sis. Debra Ellis & family, Bro. Croom & family, Sis. Kenya & Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, the Brantfords, J. W. Kinds, Sis. Wyatt and Sis. Whitney Taylor

Sis. Wyatt is out of the hospital and continues to recuperate at home.

The Palanca family, our former neighbor, lost their father suddenly on Christmas night. They had lost their mom in May of 2020. They need lots of support.

Please continue to pray for and encourage our newest members Bro. Croom Sis. Reba & Michelle Metevia, and Sisters Tillman and McLaurin. Sis. Dana Burns was baptized 2 weeks ago and returned to her home town. Continue to pray for her as she settles in her new congregation.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Children's Bible Class taught by Sis. Whitney Taylor (lower level).

Young Adult Class taught by Bro. Taylor. (upper level)

Adult Bible Class - main auditorium

Thankfully, Denee made it back safely to her base last Friday, having had the opportunity to enjoy the holiday with family.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

THIS WEEK: - NONE

There are 2 important meetings coming up.

1. A meeting with the ladies over zoom this Thursday at 6:30 pm. Your suggestions/ideas are needed as we put together a calendar of events for 2023. The link for the meeting will be sent earlier that day.
2. The men are asked to meet immediately after service next week Sunday, here at the building



SKILLS BANK

Remember to submit your information to be added to the skills bank and be diligent to do your verification for relevant licensing.

Sis. WebsterReal Estate Agent
Sis. Debra WoodardFinancial Advisor
Gambles Property Preservation & Custom Home Décor

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	83
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	50
Last Sunday offering	\$3203.43
Weekly Budget	\$2625.00