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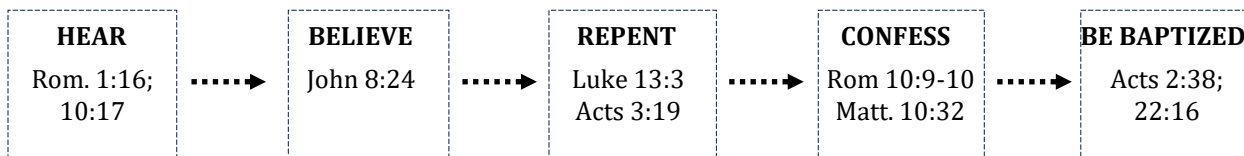
## Sermon Notes



### 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***


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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' Class .....10 a.m.  
Sun. Adult Bible Class.....10 a.m.  
Worship Service .....11 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

## BLACK LITERACY AS IT RELATES TO CHRISTIANITY

**A**ntebellum (the time before the Civil War) southern states had laws that prohibited enslaved Blacks from reading and writing, or even learning to read and write. In his 1845 autobiography, Frederick Douglass shares his experiences as a slave with an intense desire to learn to read and write. Douglass will later be quoted as saying, “knowledge makes a man unfit to be a slave”. Southern Whites and slave owners knew that as long as enslaved Blacks could not read, they were easier to control. When Frederick Douglass finally learned to read, he learned of abolitionists and the abolition movement. The rest is history.

During this same time period in the north, free Blacks created literary societies where they gathered to read and discuss literature. In fact, the first Black newspaper, *Freedom’s Journal*, was published in New York in 1827 (Bacon, 2007). African Americans knew very well, even then, that literacy was linked to freedom. It is for this cause that many were prohibited from learning or even teaching literacy.

In John 8:31-32, Jesus tells his followers that if they abide in His word, they will know the truth and “the truth shall make you free”. Even in scripture we see that literacy is linked to freedom. But what is today’s Christian being liberated from? Romans 6:17-22 tells us that Christians were once slaves to sin but “ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin...”. Based on scripture, it was our literacy and our belief that delivered us from sin, just as literacy liberated many Black minds and bodies from bondage in the antebellum south.

If a Christian slacks in reading his Bible, or fails to stay in God’s word, he risks not only being a slave to ignorance, but also a slave to sin.

Jesus tells his followers that if they abide in His word, they will know the truth and “the truth shall make you free”.

John 8:31-32

Eddie Taylor, Jr.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REMINDERS:

- ~Please silence your *cell phones*.
- ~No *eating* in the auditorium.



*New guest*, please be sure to complete a Welcome Card.

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

Please send any *requests* and *announcements* to be made or to be included in the bulletin to Sis. Ruthie Gamble at 708-336-3120.

Please use the *Prayer Request* cards when asking for prayers especially during the invitation.

There is a *suggestion box* in the foyer.

The *Ladies’ Ministry* will resume Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 6:30p.m. It promises to be a great spiritual and social boost for the ladies. We will be starting our *Men’s Class* on the same date and time as our sisters at the church building also. Remember that these classes are every other week.

## 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](http://www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org)

The registration cost will be taken care of for one (1) sister who would like to go to the retreat. Please see Sis. Webster ASAP for more information.

## FOR PRAYERS:

The Wyatt, Thigpen & Williams families, Cossom family, the Carter & McMillian families, the Raglin & Murphy-Reece families and the Hardy & Burks families. Sis. Ellis, Sis. McGee, Sis. Brandi Bell, The Brantford’s, Sis. Glenda Carter, Bro. Croom, Stacey Forrest, cousin of the Cunningham/Gamble families, Young family, Bryant family, Palanca family, Sis. Errika Williams & Scott

family. The Conner family, Sis. Della White & family, Sis. Kenya & Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, J. W. Kinds, Sis. Cunningham and Bro. & Sis. Taylor.

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Bro. Kristopher Strickland who was baptized on February 12, 2023, Bro. Croom, Sis. Reba & Michelle Metevia, and Sisters Tillman and McLaurin.

## 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

We are seeking volunteers for *Sunday School teachers* for kids. Please see Bro. Webster for more information.

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

SIS. PAYNE

TODAY-SUN. FEB. 26TH

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

NONE

## 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. Webster .....Real Estate Agent  
Sis. Debra Woodard .....Financial Advisor  
Gambles ..... Property Preservation & Custom Home Décor

## Last Week’s Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	83
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	46
Last Sunday offering	\$3614.50
<b>Weekly Budget</b>	<b>\$2625.00</b>