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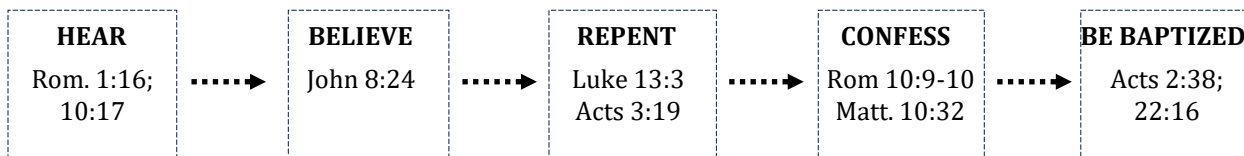
Sermon Notes



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' 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

Who Gets to Be First?

The book of Third John is the shortest book in the Bible at least by word count, but there is one character that really stands out whose name is Diotrephes. John says in v. 9, obviously with great disappointment, that this brother "...loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us." In other words, he loved to have first place and perhaps felt threatened by the presence of the apostle, which resulted in him being inhospitable.

Our desire for recognition would not be such a great problem if it was not motivated by selfishness, which replaces Jesus as the focus of our attention. Someone once said, "When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a very small package." The more absorbed we are about ourselves; the more Christ is squeezed out of the picture. The position that Christ holds in our lives is of great importance as that determines the position He puts us in. In Matt. 23:12, Jesus warns "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." To put it another way, "it is our attitude that will determine our altitude."



Life cannot be all about us and all about Jesus at the same time. Paul was the notorious persecutor of Christians. Years after his conversion he said to them "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..." Philippians 3:7-8. He knew that to have a close relationship with his Savior, Christ must be the central figure in his life. Therefore, anything that would draw attention to himself and away from Christ, he was ready to discard. He would later admonish the Philippian Christians "Let nothing be done through selfish ambitions or conceit..." (Phil. 2:3)

For us, the decision must be the same. Are there things in our lives that have dethroned Jesus? Are we driven by a desire to satisfy our self-centered pursuits at the expense of our souls? Unless, like Paul, we are willing to "count them loss" we will never have the privilege of experiencing the joy of knowing Jesus intimately.

---Robert Webster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

There are **prayer request cards** and 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

FOR PRAYERS:

Both Bill and Jasper Raglin the brothers of the late Sis. Selma Murphy-Reece passed away last week. The family is greatly in need of prayers.

Sis. Vannie Wyatt is back in Christ Hospital and needs much prayers and encouragement. Sis. Glenda Carter has been admitted to Christ Hospital as well.

Bro. Croom has been under the weather. Stacye 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, Odell Murphy, Sis. Debra Ellis & family, Sis. Kenya & Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, the Brantfords, J. W. Kinds, Sis. Cunningham and Sis. Whitney Taylor.

Please keep the Hardy's in your prayers as they will be traveling back from CA. after the funeral services of Bro. Hardy's sister, Kathryn Burks.

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members 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. BRIA GAMBLE MON. JAN. 30TH

*KRISTOPHER ANDERSON TUES. JAN. 31ST

*DENOTES NOT A MEMBER

NO ANNIVERSARIES

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	85
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	49
Last Sunday offering	\$3871.48
Weekly Budget	\$2625.00