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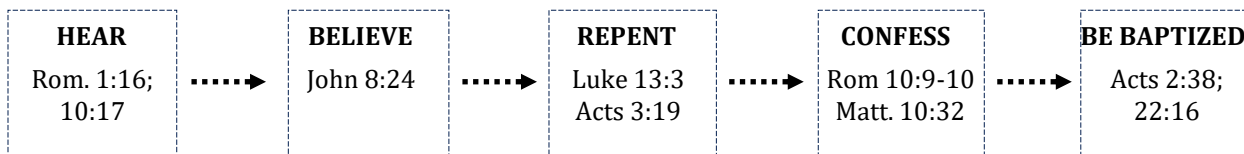
## Sermon Notes



### 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?




Volume 4


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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' 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

## Living Orderly Lives

God's design for man has always been about order until the fall of man in Genesis 3. Since then, man has struggled to approach life and service to God in an orderly manner. A life that is defined by disorder will produce inefficiencies, unfaithfulness, frustration and most of all, God's displeasure. In I Cor. 14:40, Paul, in addressing the confusion that was taking place in the worship assembly of the Corinthians, exhorted them to "Let all things be done decently and in order." This is a profound statement and has relevance in every aspect of our lives even today. He also rejoiced at the "good order" (Col. 2:5) of the Christians in Colossae. Being spiritually well-organized has been a constant theme throughout the Bible.

In Luke 9:57-62 it tells of at least two men who had their priorities wrong. One agreed to follow Christ but said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father" (v. 59). The other said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home" (v. 61). Our Lord's response was quite clear, "No man having put his hand to the plow and looking back is fit for the kingdom of God" (v. 62). To put it another way, in all that we do, service to God takes precedence every time. Remember what He said in Matt. 6:33, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." The Greek word for "first" is "protos" which means "first in time, order, place and importance." There can be no doubt as to where God expects us to place our priorities in service to Him and His kingdom. This often-overlooked truth has been the downfall of many Christians. First things first!

Our approach to worship should be no different. In His sermon on the mount, Jesus taught us that our worship is in vain if we fail to address first things first. Matt. 5:23, 24 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. **First** be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." Before worship is acceptable, we must "first be reconciled to your brother..." Again, first things first! The Macedonians were commended by Paul for their approach to giving. They were able to give liberally notwithstanding their "deep poverty" because they "first gave themselves to the Lord...!" (II Cor. 8:5). It goes without saying that we will always struggle to give as we have been prospered if we have not taken care of "first things first" which is to first be whole-heartedly committed to God before anything else.

Paul, before addressing many of the doctrinal issues in his epistle to the Romans, said "**First**, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all..." (Rom. 1:8). We may have disagreements with each other from time to time, but we are members of a great family and as such, we should give God thanks for each other first. This was a regular feature at the start of several of his epistles (I Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; I Thess. 1:2). The Psalmist exhorts us to "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving..." (Psa. 100:4). Our worship to God should begin with a thankful heart. Let us make every effort to live orderly lives so that God is always our priority.

(R. Webster)

**There can be no doubt as to where God expects us to place our priorities in service to Him and His kingdom.**

# 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.

*Prayer request*, please complete prayer request card located 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.

There is a *suggestion box* in the foyer.

Please review the *website* for any necessary updates. Also, if you would like a *year-end tax statement*, please contact Sis. Ruthie Gamble.

The *Ladies' and Men's Ministries* have resumed for 2023. We meet every other Thursday. The next meeting is scheduled for Thurs., April 6th at 6:30p.m. Please plan ahead to be in attendance. These classes are intended to promote a heightened spiritual and social boost. Ladies, if received, please bring your **Bridges or Barriers** booklets.

## Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

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

Date: April 20-23, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia.

5 ladies from our congregation, along with 1 friend will be in attendance. Pray for safe travels and that they will return spiritually uplifted.

## FOR PRAYERS:

Prayers for the Gamble family & Sis. Ann-Marie Webster who are out of town.

Sis. Denee Webster, Sis. Payne, Sis. Conner, Sis. Cossom. Sis Chaff's cousin, Toya House suffered a brain aneurysm and is showing improvement.

Sis. Linda Smith, wife of Bro. Ozell Smith.

The Cotton & Peden families, Sis. Helen McGee, Sis. Ellis, the Brantfords, Sis. Glenda Carter, Stacye Forrest, cousin of the Cunningham/Gamble families, Young family, Bryant family, Sis. Kenya & Kristopher Strickland, Sis. Davis, and Bro. & Sis. Taylor.

## FOR ENCOURAGEMENT:

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Sis. Carrie Ricks, Sis. Terry Ammer, Bro. Kristopher Strickland, 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. BELL

SAT., APRIL 8TH

## ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

#49 THE NORMANS

SAT., APRIL 8TH

## 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 Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)

## Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom 82

Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)

Last Sunday offering \$3781.50

Weekly Budget \$2625.00