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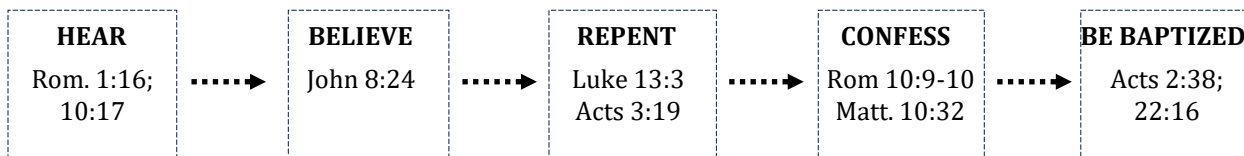
Sermon Notes



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

When Fellowship with God is Hindered

“...but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

One of the things that pleases God is when we walk humbly with Him (*Micah 6:8*). However, we cannot walk with Him if we are living sinful lifestyles (*Isa. 59:1-2*). 1 John 1:6 says, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” The apostle perhaps foresaw people walking in darkness all week, and yet showed up at church on Sunday as if all is well. To be clear, every child of God is expected to be in church on Sundays, even if he has not lived an exemplary life during the week, but he must be honest about it. The church is a place where people can find healing and forgiveness, but they will not if they do not admit their sinfulness. John writes, “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (*1 John 1:8*)

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Honesty is essential for healing! The only way to get help from God regarding our weaknesses is to acknowledge them. However, knowing we have a problem isn't enough, we must be motivated to make the necessary changes in our behavior. The bible says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (*1 John 1:9*). A person who is weak can walk in the light with Jesus if he continually confesses his sins to God. The confession here is not a one-time event, but a lifestyle. If we confess and continue to confess our sins to God, He will forgive us and cleanse us.

Indeed, God is pleased with us when we assemble to worship Him on the first day of the week. He is also just as pleased when we make every effort to allow Him to lead us throughout the week. However, none of this is acceptable unless we confess our sins and are willing to receive His forgiveness and the cleansing He offers.

--Robert Webster

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 cards are 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.

The *Ladies' and Men's Ministries* meet every other Thursday. The next meeting is scheduled for May 4th at 6:30p.m. Please make every effort to attend. Ladies bring your **Bridges or Barriers** booklets. These classes are intended to promote a heightened spiritual and social boost.

Annual Ladies Lectureship Retreat

The sisters returned safely from the 36th Annual COC Ladies Lectureship in Atlanta. It was a blessed time of fellowship within the sisterhood and spiritually inspiring and uplifting.

The 37th Annual retreat will take place next year, March 28-31, 2024 in Orlando, Florida.

The theme is *Christian Women: A Steadfast Extraordinary Journey*. Registration is now open.

Website: www.ladieslectureshipretreat.org

CONDOLENCES:

To the family of Toya House who passed away recently. Funeral arrangements are pending.

FOR PRAYERS:

The Barnes & Harley-Simpson families, Sis. Della White & family. The cousin of Sis. Goldman, Patricia Reed, is in need of prayers for restored health. Sis. Lennon & family. School mate of Brooke Gamble, Maeve Bouton, was recently

diagnosed with brain cancer. Stacye Forrest, cousin of the Cunningham/Gamble families pathology returned with some unfavorable news. She is scheduled for additional diagnostic testing tomorrow. The Chaff family, the Hardys and the mother of Sis. Hardy, Vladis Reynolds, in Jamaica. Sis. Denee Webster, Sis. Payne, Bro. & Sis. Cossom and the Young families, Sis. Linda Smith, wife of Bro. Ozell Smith. The Cotton & Peden families, Sis. Helen McGee, Sis. Ellis, the Brantfords, Sis. Glenda Carter, Bro & Sis. Strickland, Sis. Davis, and Bro. & Sis. Taylor.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT:

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Sis. Carrie Ricks, Sis. Terry Armmer, 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 - taught by Bro. Webster (main auditorium)

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

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

SIS. PARIS MICKLES	TUES., MAY 2ND
SIS. LIZ SHELTON	WED., MAY 3RD
BRO. BR ANTIFORD	THURS., MAY 4TH

ANNIVERSARIS THIS WEEK: NONE

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	62
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	33
Last Sunday offering	\$3567.53
Weekly Budget	\$2625.00