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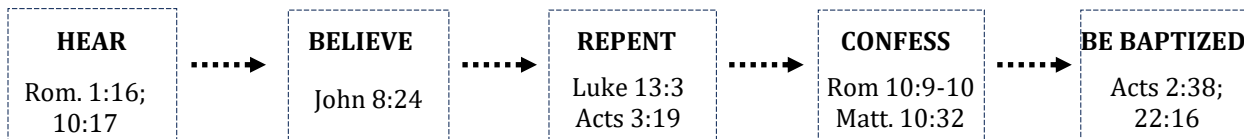
Sermon Notes



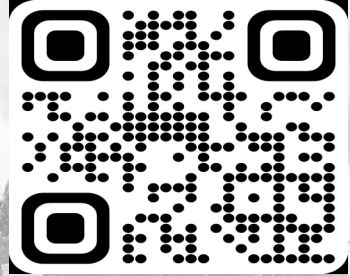
ORDER OF SERVICE

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 will 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 will 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

Children's Sunday School10 a.m.
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

No Retreat, No Surrender

The title of this article came from a blockbuster martial arts movie I watched back in the mid-eighties. It was about a young average martial arts fighter who refused to surrender to an organized crime syndicate. The words "no retreat, no surrender" are a rallying cry for those who are determined to overcome any obstacle. They are a reminder that we should never give up on our dreams, no matter how difficult the journey may seem.

In our Christian journey, these words take on even greater meaning. They imply that we will be confronted with real challenges and obstacles tempting us to consider retreating or even surrendering our faith in Christ. A distinct lesson found in God's word is that we are all susceptible to falling away. Paul told some of the Galatians *Christians* "You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). A few verses later, he said, "You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?" (Gal. 5:7).

The title also reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles, and that God is always with us, even when things are tough. We are not super Christians, therefore, the will to avoid retreating and surrendering to the pressures of the world, will not come from us but from God. The inspired apostle confirmed this in Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We can find strength in His promises and can know that He will never abandon us. In Heb. 13:5, God said to His people "...I will never leave you nor forsake you." How reassuring are the words written to the Christians in Rome when Paul asked rhetorically "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom. 8:35).


So, when we face challenges in our lives, let us remember the words "no retreat, no surrender!" Let us be determined to not succumb but to overcome whatever we may face on this journey because with the Lord on our side, "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

By Robert Webster

Let us be determined to not succumb but to overcome whatever we may face on this journey, with the Lord by our side.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

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

New guests, please be sure to complete a Welcome Card.

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

A *Suggestion Box* and *Prayer Request* cards are located in the foyer.

Contributions can be made electronically via **Zelle (recommended)** using the church's email-westhammondcc@gmail.com.

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 sign up to bring food for the upcoming **picnic** this Saturday, **August 5th**.

The *Men's Class* meet every other Thursday. The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 9th at 6:30p.m. The *Ladies' Class* has been put on hold until further notice.

ANNUAL LADIES LECTURESHIP RETREAT

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 Ladies, plan to attend. See Sis. Webster for more information.

GIVE-AWAY DAY

We were honored to serve the community yesterday and it was so well received. It is a purposeful evangelistic effort that we intend to continue for years to come, by the grace of God.

CONDOLENCES

Sis. Elaine Maxwell, relative of the Lightfoot/Davis families, was laid to rest yesterday. Please keep the families lifted in prayer.

FOR PRAYERS

Sis. Goldman, Sis. Ellis, Sisters Lennon & Simmons are recuperating from surgery. Sister Brantford who is now in a skilled nursing facility, Sis. Cossom continue to undergo treatment for cancer. Sis. Glenda Carter and her friends Gloria & Mitch Harrington.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Please continue to pray for and encourage our new members Sis. Chambers, Bro. Andre Mendenhall, Sis. Tene Mendenhall, Sis. Blanche Mendenhall, Sis. Ricks, Sis. Armmer, Bro. 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 need volunteers for *Sunday School teachers* for kids. Please see Bro. Webster for more information if you are interested.



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK



Sis. Della White
Sis. Brenda Sims

Sun. 7/30
Thurs. 8/3

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

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
GamblesProperty Preservation & Custom Wood Work Décor/Signs (Home/Business)

Last Week's Record

Sunday AM Worship & Zoom	90
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	44
Last Sunday offering	\$6,781.88
Weekly Budget	\$2,625.00