

Text:
Topic:

Sermon Notes





*"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.

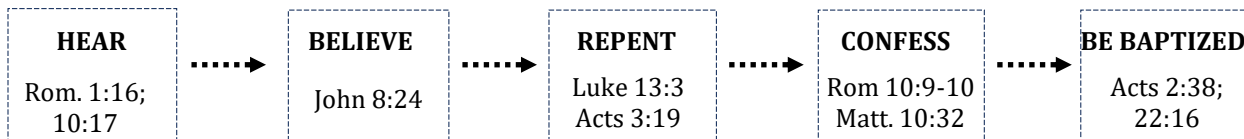
Wednesday

Bible Study (on Zoom)...7:00 p.m.

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?



*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalm 122:1*

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Keeping It Real

I am often asked the question, "Who is your favorite person in the Bible?". Of course, this question is quickly followed by "and you can't say Jesus". For many years my favorite person in the Bible has been and still is the apostle, Peter. Is it because he preached the first gospel sermon? Is it because after he preached about three thousand souls were saved? No. Simply put, Peter kept it real.

We know that Peter, after "cussing" people out, denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75). We are familiar with Paul confronting Peter about some of his racist or partial tendencies and how they caused division (Galatians 2:11-13). Most notably, when all the others were sitting quietly Peter was known for his big mouth or getting himself into situations (Matthew 14:28-30; 16:21-22; 17:1-6; 26:33-35). Despite this, I love that Peter acknowledged that he was imperfect. By being honest with himself and owning his flaws, Peter was in a better position to be taught and forgiven. In John chapter 13, Jesus is washing the disciples' feet. When He got to Peter, Peter refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet for he knew that he was unworthy. Peter tells Jesus, "You will never wash my feet" (verse 8). Here, we see Peter speaking when all the others kept quiet. But in this moment of honesty, Jesus was able to teach Peter, and us through Peter, that if we do not receive the cleansing that Jesus offers, we will have no part with Him. Through being washed by Jesus, Peter was in communion with Him. By being washed in Christ's blood, we have communion with Christ (John 13:8, Acts 2:38). But this cannot be done without repentance. Peter took back his statement and told Jesus, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head" (John 13:9). Shouldn't we ask Jesus to do the same?

Let us be real with ourselves and own up to our faults knowing that Jesus is ready and willing to forgive.

The apostle Peter confessed his faults and grew closer to Jesus as a result. He didn't hide behind his pride or position. He left himself completely exposed so that his sins may be completely disposed! Let us aim to be like Peter (in some regards) and confess our faults. Let us not waste time defending our positions, but instead spend time learning what Christ expects from us. Let us be real with ourselves and own up to our faults knowing that Jesus is ready and willing to forgive (1 John 1:9). Whether we call him "Big Mouth Peter" or "Sit Down Somewhere Peter", his life and candor encourage us to keep it real for the sake of our souls.

~ Eddie Taylor, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDERS:

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



New guests please 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. All are welcomed.

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.

The **Men's Class** will now meet **every** Thursday at 6:30 p.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, please do not wait until the last minute to register. Fees go up incrementally as the months go by. For group information see Sis. Webster.

TRAVELING

Sis. Webster left yesterday to visit with her sister in Florida. She will return later this week. Pray for traveling grace.

HOMELESS MISSION

We are accepting canned goods, household items, toiletries, men, women and children's clothing. Put donations inside the room downstairs labeled "**Intake Donation Room**".

FOR PRAYERS

Bro. Craig Conner & family, Tenel Cunningham & Kimberley Poe, the cousin & friend of Sis. Gamble, Kristopher Anderson, Vanessa Grier & Christopher McKnight, grandson and friends respectively of Sis. Carter-McKnight. The Davis & McAllister families, Gavin Wagner a friend of Sis.

Bell, Sis. Blanche and Andriana Mendenhall, Bro. Paul Woodard, Zuri McLaurin, the granddaughter of the Davises, as well as Greg Lewis, the cousin of Sis. Davis who is undergoing cancer treatment. Sis. Goldman, Sis. Brantford, Sis. Cossom and Sis. Whitney Taylor.

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT

Please continue to pray for and encourage our newest members of the congregation.

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



BRO. CUNNINGHAM
BRO. MENDENHALL, SR.

TODAY- 9/24
MON.- 9/25

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	73
Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom)	39
Last Sunday's offering	\$4,460.00
Weekly Budget	\$3,282.00